美味しんぼ 19

雁屋 哲・花咲アキラ

スピリッツコミックス好評発売中／

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F〈エフ〉（六田登）……1～13集
妻をめとらば（柳沢きみお）……1～10集
YAWARA！（浦沢直樹）……1～9集
冒険してもいい頃（みやすのんき）…1～9集
マドンナ（くじらいいくこ）……1～8集
神の左手悪魔の右手（楳図かずお）…1～6集
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装丁／海野一雄　　カバー・フォト／菊地和男

BIG COMICS

美味しんぼ

19

食は三代？

作・雁屋 哲

画・花咲アキラ

◆

小学館

BC1409

BIG COMICS

美味しんぼ 19

食は二代？

作・雁屋 哲　画・花咲アキラ

◆

小学館
BC1409

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雁屋　哲
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■ ビッグコミックス
美味しんぼ……Ⅰ～19集発売中

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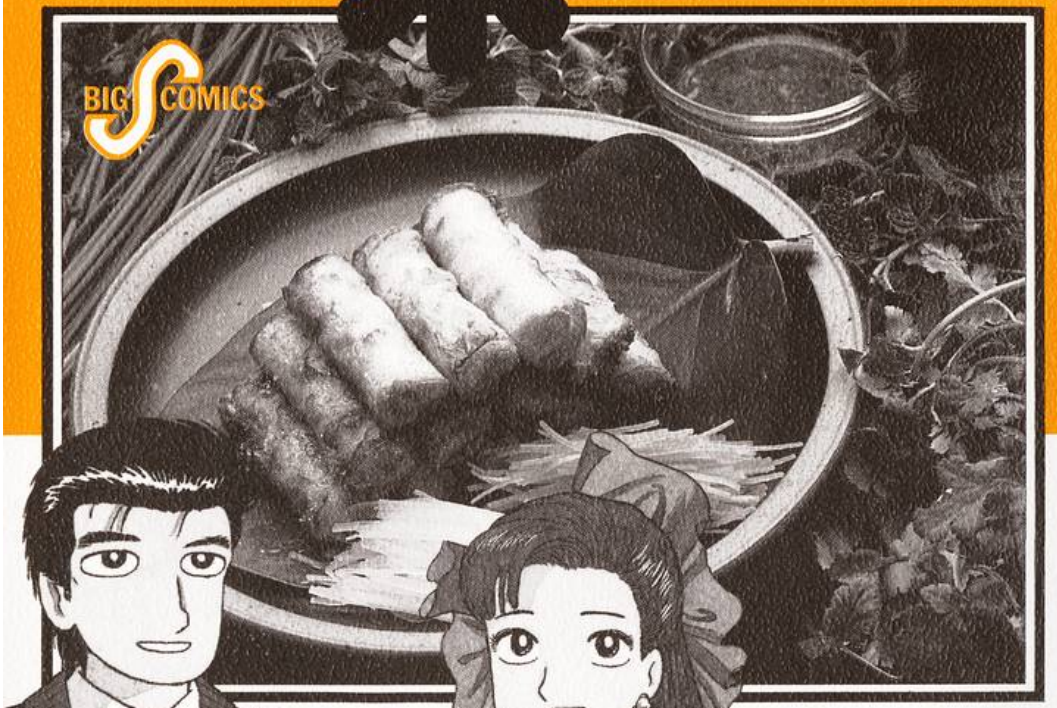
美味しんぼ

BIG S COMICS



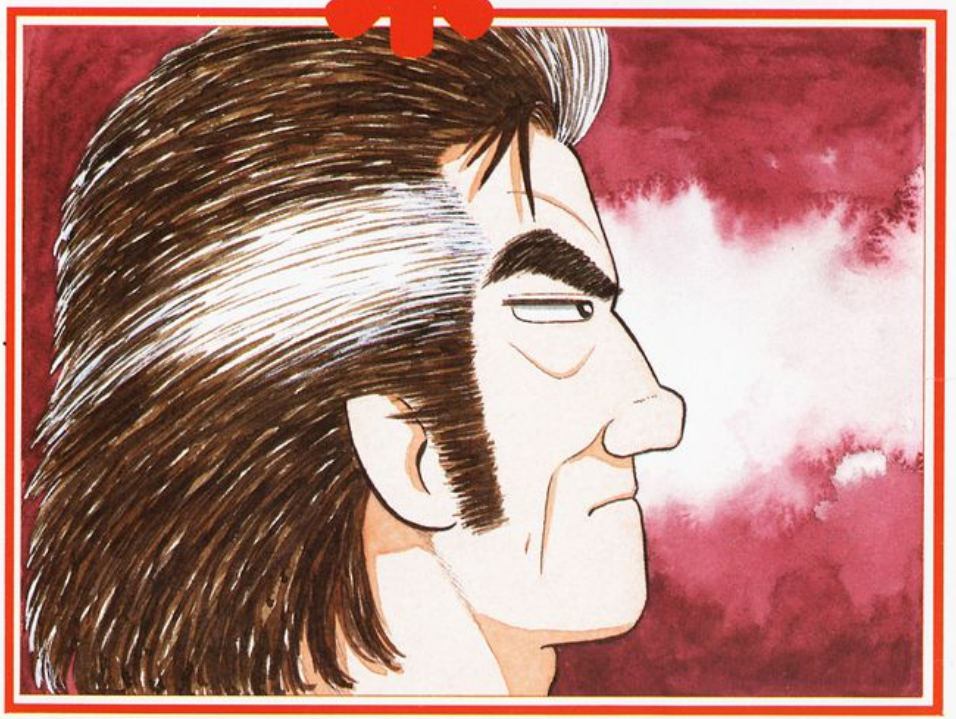
19 食は三代？

作・雁屋 哲
画・花咲アキラ

19 食は三代？

■ベトナム風春巻き…エビ、豚、春雨、香菜などを細かくきざみ、米で作った薄皮にくるみ揚げたものを、サニーレタス、ミント、ニラ、ネギなど好みの野菜と共にニョクマム(魚醤)につけて食す。(調理／ドデュダーンド)

美味(おい)しんぼ



美味(おい)しんぼ

19 食は三代？

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第1話

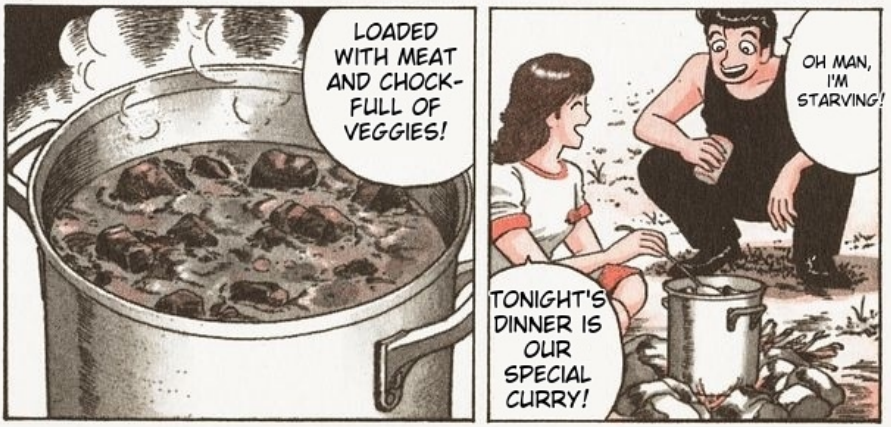
対決！村おこし

〈前編〉

I TOOK AN EARLY SUMMER VACATION AND CAME CAMPING BY THE LAKE.
THE HIGHLIGHT OF CAMPING IS DEFINITELY DINNER...

EVEN THOUGH YOU WERE JUST LOUNGING AROUND!
YIKES! A COLD BEER AFTER ALL THAT HARD WORK TASTES AMAZING!
BEER

2

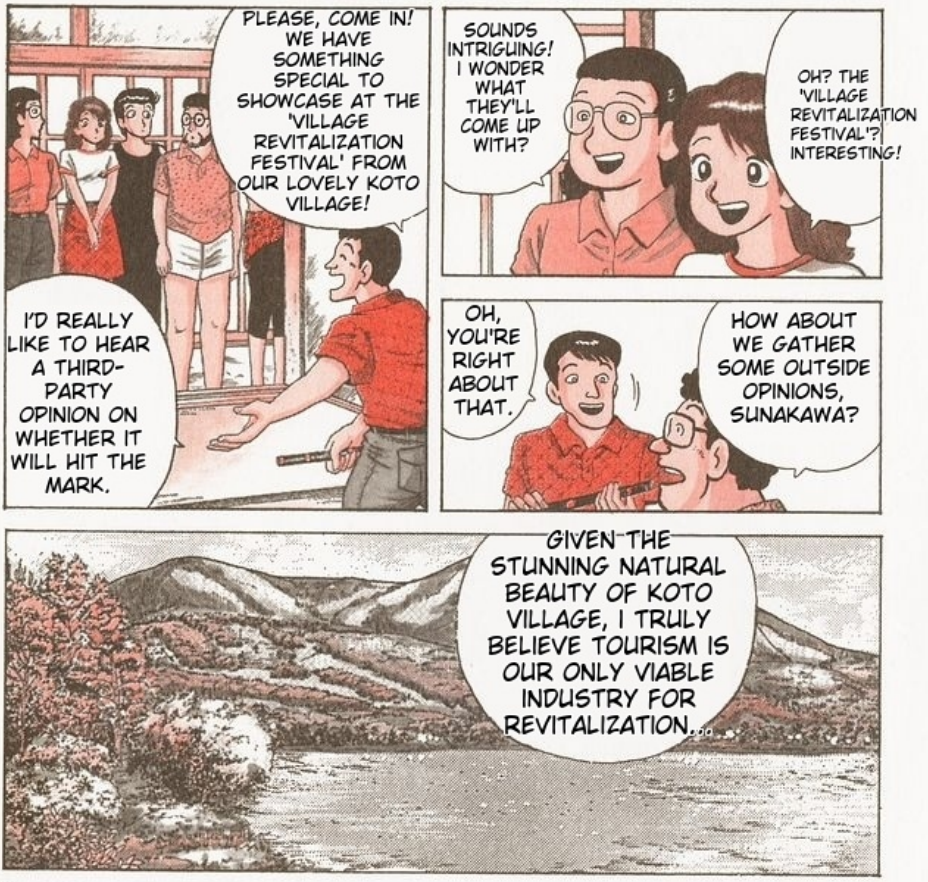

LOADED WITH MEAT AND CHOCK-FULL OF VEGGIES!
OH MAN, I'M STARVING!
TONIGHT'S DINNER IS OUR SPECIAL CURRY!

DELICIOUS!

ヒューヒロロ...
!!?!
ALRIGHT, LET'S GET THE DISHES READY.
WOW, THAT SOUNDS LIKE SO MUCH FUN!
OH WOW... WITH OBON JUST AROUND THE CORNER, IT MUST BE PRACTICE FOR THE BON ODORI!
LISTEN TO THOSE FESTIVE RHYTHMS!
OH LOOK, DRUMS AND FLUTES...
トコトコ
ピーヒョロ
SHALL WE GO CHECK IT OUT AFTER DINNER?!
3
ABSOLUTELY!

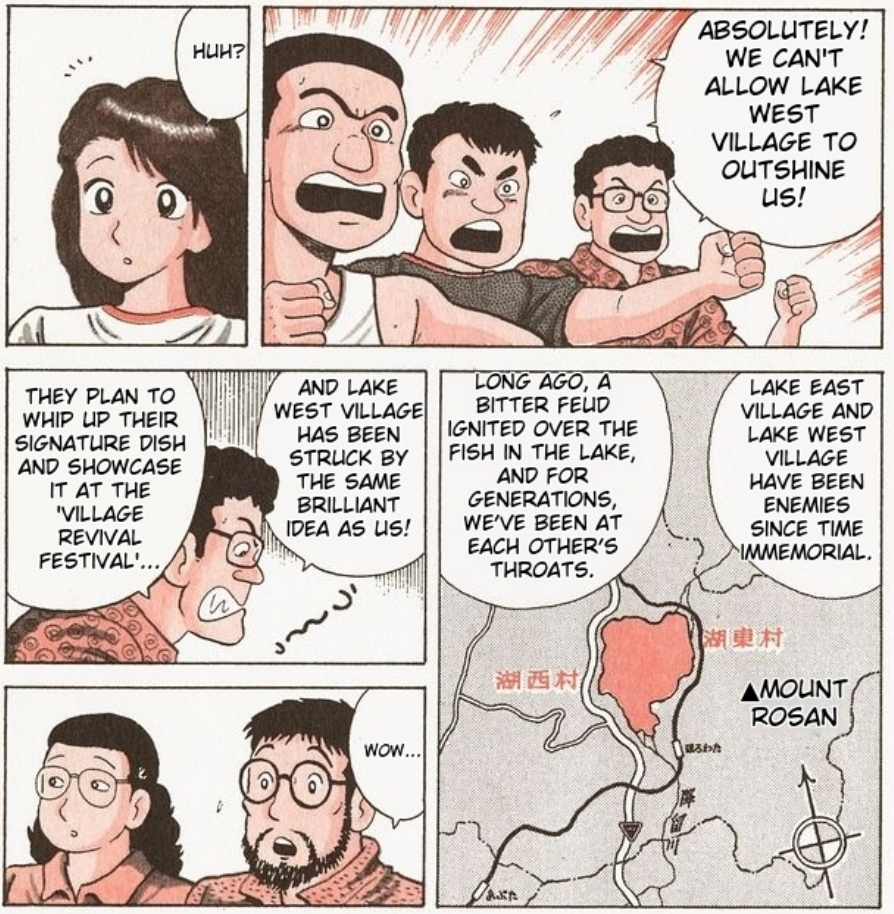
LET'S TAKE A PEEK INSIDE.
OH MY... IT SEEMS LIKE NO ONE IS DANCING HERE AT ALL...
KOTO VILLAGE COMMUNITY CENTER.
I HEARD THE SOUND OF YOUR MUSIC AND THOUGHT IT WAS A PRACTICE FOR THE BON ODORI DANCE...
SORRY TO BOTHER YOU. WE WERE OUT CAMPING AND...
GOOD EVENING...
WE'RE PRACTICING FOR THE 'VILLAGE REVIVAL FESTIVAL' HOSTED BY THE PREFECTURE, WHERE WE'LL BE PERFORMING SOME LIVELY MUSIC TO BOOST EVERYONE'S SPIRITS!
IT'S NOT BON ODORI, YOU SEE.

DELICIOUS!


PLEASE, COME IN! WE HAVE SOMETHING SPECIAL TO SHOWCASE AT THE 'VILLAGE REVITALIZATION FESTIVAL' FROM OUR LOVELY KOTO VILLAGE!
I'D REALLY LIKE TO HEAR A THIRD-PARTY OPINION ON WHETHER IT WILL HIT THE MARK.
SOUNDS INTRIGUING! I WONDER WHAT THEY'LL COME UP WITH?
OH? THE 'VILLAGE REVITALIZATION FESTIVAL'? INTERESTING!
OH, YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT THAT.
HOW ABOUT WE GATHER SOME OUTSIDE OPINIONS, SUNAKAWA?
GIVEN THE STUNNING NATURAL BEAUTY OF KOTO VILLAGE, I TRULY BELIEVE TOURISM IS OUR ONLY VIABLE INDUSTRY FOR REVITALIZATION...
5
SO, WE'VE DECIDED TO CREATE A RESTAURANT OR AN INN WHERE VISITORS CAN SAVOR OUR VILLAGE'S SIGNATURE DISHES.
I WAS THINKING OF ADDING ONE MORE THING TO THE MIX.
RELYING SOLELY ON THE BEAUTY OF NATURE MAKES IT TOUGH TO COMPETE WITH OTHER TOURIST SPOTS.

SO, WHAT'S THE SPECIALTY DISH OF THIS VILLAGE?
ANYWAY, WE'VE DECIDED TO SHOWCASE OUR SPECIALTY DISH AT THE UPCOMING 'VILLAGE REVITALIZATION FESTIVAL'.
WOW...
WAIT! HOLD ON JUST A SECOND...!!
WE'LL COME UP WITH SOMETHING.
THAT'S WHERE EVERYONE IS SCRATCHING THEIR HEADS IN CONFUSION...
WELL THEN, WHAT KIND OF DISH ARE YOU THINKING OF MAKING A SPECIALTY?
SO THEY LACK THAT WOW FACTOR, AND I JUST DON'T FEEL THEY'LL MAKE A BIG SPLASH...
THE THING IS, COUNTRYSIDE DISHES LIKE WILD VEGETABLE CUISINE OR BOAR MEAT ARE DONE EVERYWHERE,
6
YOU'RE REALLY DEDICATED, AREN'T YOU?
I SEE... SO THAT'S WHY YOU'RE ALL HUDDLED TOGETHER IN THIS YOUTH GROUP BRAINSTORMING.

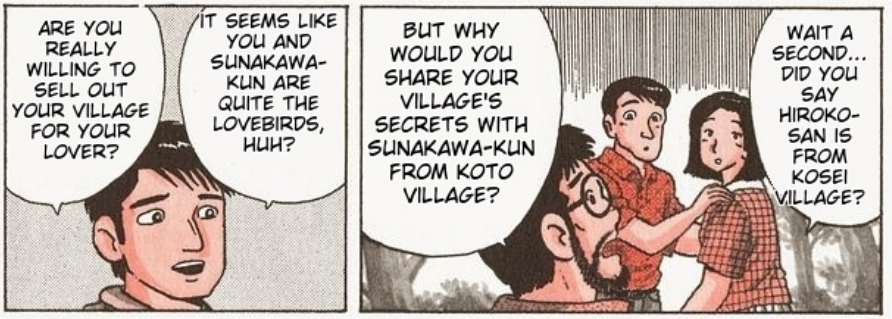
DELICIOUS!


HUH?
ABSOLUTELY! WE CAN'T ALLOW LAKE WEST VILLAGE TO OUTSHINE US!
THEY PLAN TO WHIP UP THEIR SIGNATURE DISH AND SHOWCASE IT AT THE 'VILLAGE REVIVAL FESTIVAL'...
AND LAKE WEST VILLAGE HAS BEEN STRUCK BY THE SAME BRILLIANT IDEA AS US!
LONG AGO, A BITTER FEUD IGNITED OVER THE FISH IN THE LAKE, AND FOR GENERATIONS, WE'VE BEEN AT EACH OTHER'S THROATS.
LAKE EAST VILLAGE AND LAKE WEST VILLAGE HAVE BEEN ENEMIES SINCE TIME IMMEMORIAL.
湖東村
湖西村
▲MOUNT ROSAN
WOW...
7
A POWERFUL ALLY?
LAKE WEST VILLAGE HAS JUST LANDED A POWERFUL ALLY.
ON TOP OF THAT, WE'RE FACING A REAL CHALLENGE.
AH, I SEE... RIVAL VILLAGES SQUABBLING OVER TOURISTS, THAT'S BOUND TO BE TOUGH.

N-NO WAY?!
UH, WELL... IT'S RUN BY SOMEONE WHO OWNS WHAT'S KNOWN AS THE FINEST RESTAURANT IN TOKYO.
THE VILLAGE CHIEF FROM KOSEI VILLAGE WENT TO A POLITICIAN IN TOKYO, BEGGING FOR HELP FROM A CULINARY AUTHORITY!
KAIBARA YUZAN?!
ACTUALLY, HIS MAIN PROFESSION IS THAT OF AN ARTIST; HE'S RENOWNED FOR CALLIGRAPHY AND POTTERY, CONSIDERED A GENIUS FOR OVER A CENTURY...
MEANWHILE, THE TOZAI NEWSPAPER IS TRYING TO COMPETE WITH THEIR 'ULTIMATE MENU' NONSENSE...
APPARENTLY, THE TEITO NEWSPAPER IS RUNNING A SERIES CALLED 'THE SUPREME MENU,' AND-
WOW! SO HE REALLY IS A BIG DEAL!
EXACTLY!
YAMAOKA AND KURITA ARE IN CHARGE OF THE ULTIMATE MENU.
I SUPPOSE YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT MOST OF THE PEOPLE HERE WORK FOR TOZAI...
W-WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
THEY SAY YOUNG REPORTERS FROM THE TOZAI NEWSPAPER CAN'T EVEN HOLD A CANDLE TO HIM.

ブッスーーー
WAIT, WHAT?!
IF KOISAI VILLAGE HAS THE LEGENDARY KAIBARA YUZAN, THEN SURELY KOUTOU VILLAGE DESERVES SOMEONE LIKE MR. YAMAOKA!
WOW! SO YOU'RE THE ONE CRAFTING THE 'ULTIMATE MENU' FOR THE TOZAI NEWS? PERFECT TIMING!
PLEASE, LEND US YOUR STRENGTH!
THIS MUST BE SOME KIND OF FATE!
HAH... A YOUNG REPORTER FROM TOZAI NEWS IS HARDLY A WORTHY OPPONENT!
9
I'M HEADING BACK TO THE TENT TO CATCH SOME Z'S; WHAT DO I CARE ABOUT VILLAGE REVITALIZATION!
WAIT, PLEASE!
スッ

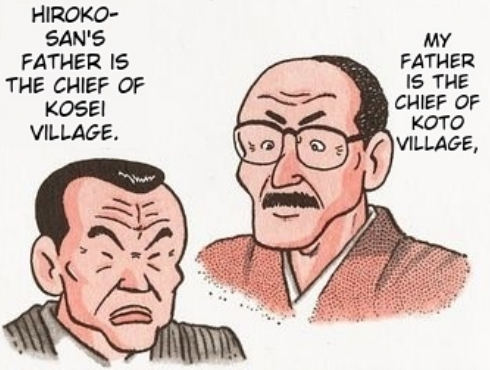
IT'S FINE, DON'T DWELL ON IT.
I FEEL A BIT GUILTY ABOUT WHAT I SAID TO YAMAOKA-SAN...
HOKO-SAN! WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE AT THIS HOUR...?!
KOICHI-SAN.
IS IT DECIDED... ALRIGHT, SPILL THE BEANS.
KOSAI VILLAGE HAS CONFIRMED THE DISHES FOR THE 'VILLAGE REVITALIZATION FESTIVAL'!
GOOD EVENING...
THIS IS HOKO UNO FROM THE NEIGHBORING KOSAI VILLAGE.
NICE TO MEET YOU.

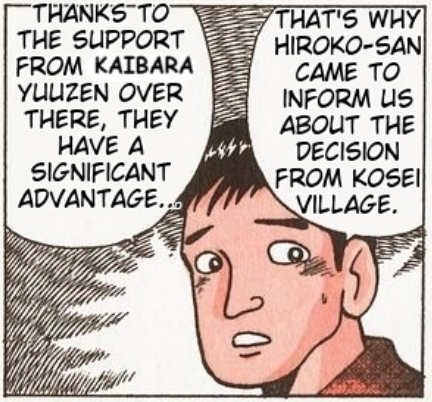

ARE YOU REALLY WILLING TO SELL OUT YOUR VILLAGE FOR YOUR LOVER?
IT SEEMS LIKE YOU AND SUNAKAWA-KUN ARE QUITE THE LOVEBIRDS, HUH?
BUT WHY WOULD YOU SHARE YOUR VILLAGE'S SECRETS WITH SUNAKAWA-KUN FROM KOTO VILLAGE?
WAIT A SECOND... DID YOU SAY HIROKO-SAN IS FROM KOSEI VILLAGE?

11

CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT THE SON AND DAUGHTER OF RIVAL VILLAGE CHIEFS ARE DATING...?
OH MY, REALLY.
WE THINK IT'S UTTERLY RIDICULOUS THAT OUR NEIGHBORING KOTO AND KOSEI VILLAGES ARE AT ODDS.

I'LL EXPLAIN.
N-NO WAY... I...


HIROKO-SAN'S FATHER IS THE CHIEF OF KOSEI VILLAGE.
MY FATHER IS THE CHIEF OF KOTO VILLAGE,

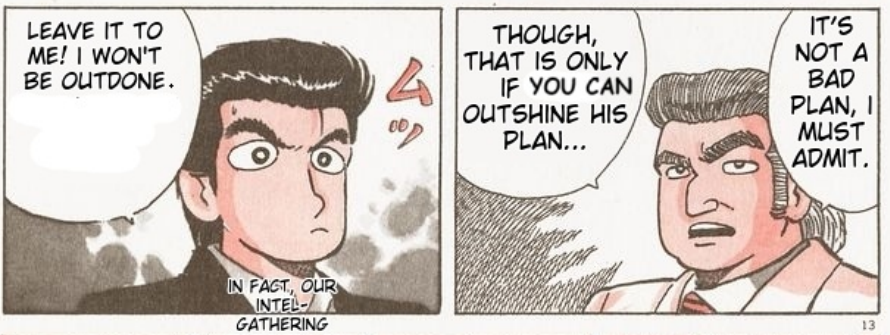

THANKS TO THE SUPPORT FROM KAIBARA YUUZEN OVER THERE, THEY HAVE A SIGNIFICANT ADVANTAGE...
THAT'S WHY HIROKO-SAN CAME TO INFORM US ABOUT THE DECISION FROM KOSEI VILLAGE.

IDEALLY, WE WANT TO AVOID A CLEAR WINNER AND FIND A WAY FOR BOTH VILLAGES TO WORK TOGETHER...
IF THE 'VILLAGE REVITALIZATION FESTIVAL' ENDS WITH A HUGE GAP IN SCORES, THE ANIMOSITY WILL ONLY ESCALATE.

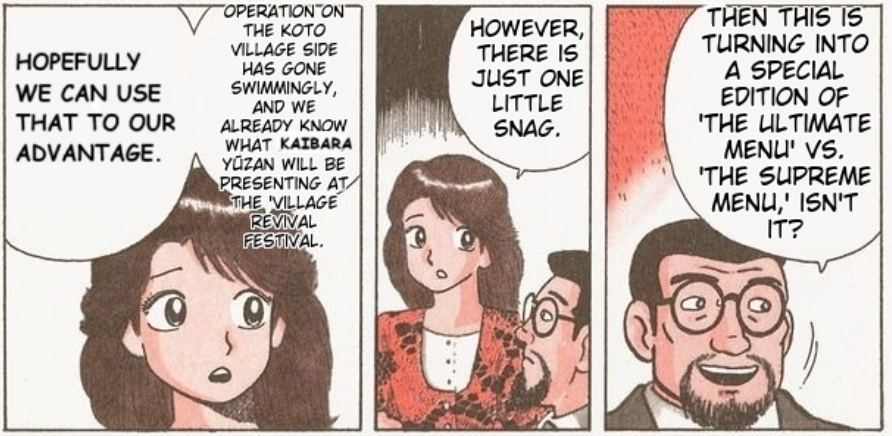
NOW THAT I'VE HEARD THAT, I CAN'T JUST SIT BACK AND LET THIS SLIDE, YAMAOKA-SAN!
OH, I SEE... BOTH OF YOU ARE WORKING HARD TO MEND THE RIFT BETWEEN YOUR VILLAGES...
AND BESIDES, IT'S ALL ABOUT WHETHER HIROKO-SAN AND SUNAKAWA-SAN CAN FIND THEIR HAPPINESS TOGETHER.
EXACTLY, RIGHT?
OH, COME ON, THAT'S SO ANNOYING!
SCARED OF KAIBARA YŪZAN, HUH...
OR COULD IT BE THAT...
YOU WOULDN'T SAY NO TO THAT, WOULD YOU?
.....

WELL, LET'S JUST GET IT DONE, SHALL WE!

WITH KAIBARA YŪZAN JOINING THE FRAY, IT'S SURE TO BE... WELL...
HMM...
東西刊聞社

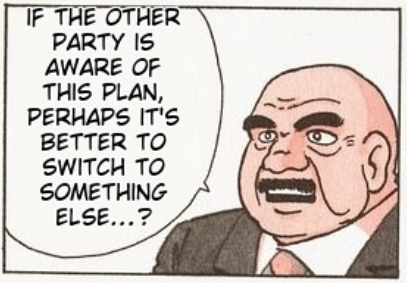

LEAVE IT TO ME! I WON'T BE OUTDONE.
IN FACT, OUR INTEL-GATHERING OPERATION ON THE KOTO VILLAGE SIDE HAS GONE SWIMMINGLY, AND WE ALREADY KNOW WHAT KAIBARA YŪZAN WILL BE PRESENTING AT THE 'VILLAGE REVIVAL FESTIVAL.
THOUGH, THAT IS ONLY IF YOU CAN OUTSHINE HIS PLAN...
IT'S NOT A BAD PLAN, I MUST ADMIT.

13


HOPEFULLY WE CAN USE THAT TO OUR ADVANTAGE.
HOWEVER, THERE IS JUST ONE LITTLE SNAG.
THEN THIS IS TURNING INTO A SPECIAL EDITION OF 'THE ULTIMATE MENU' VS. 'THE SUPREME MENU,' ISN'T IT?

ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO?
I THINK IT'S ONLY FAIR TO LET THEM KNOW WE'RE AWARE OF THEIR MOVES,
SO PLEASE PASS THIS ALONG TO THEM.
HMM...
SOUNDS QUITE INTRIGUING, DOESN'T IT!
UNDERSTOOD, I'LL MAKE SURE TO DELIVER IT.
IF WE INFORM YŪZAN OF WHAT WE KNOW, HE'LL SURELY DEVISE A DIFFERENT PLAN.
BUT WE'RE PLANNING SOMETHING THAT WILL OUTSHINE IT.
14
LET'S EXTEND OUR COOPERATION TO THE KŌTŌ VILLAGE.
VERY WELL.

...THE TOZAI NEWSPAPER INTENDS TO FULLY SUPPORT KOTO VILLAGE.
美食倶楽部


IF THE OTHER PARTY IS AWARE OF THIS PLAN, PERHAPS IT'S BETTER TO SWITCH TO SOMETHING ELSE...?

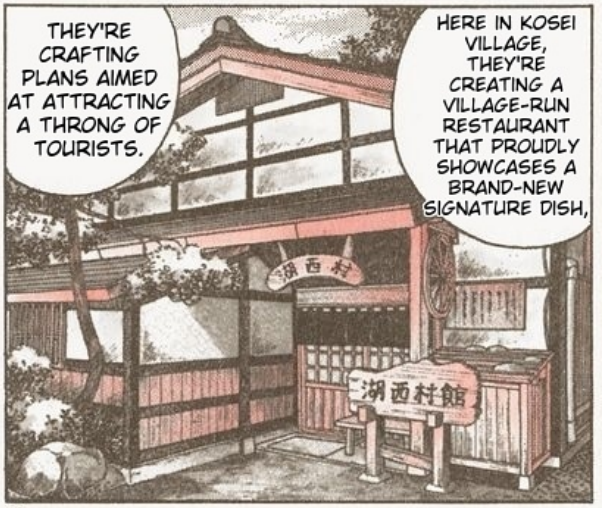
HMM...

IF YOU'RE GOING TO GO FOR IT, THEN I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT LED TO THIS SITUATION, BUT...

15

I'LL THINK IT OVER.
THERE'S NO NEED TO CHANGE THINGS AT THIS POINT, BUT...

VILLAGE REVITALIZATION FESTIVAL ENTRANCE E EVENT.
中西村館


THEY'RE CRAFTING PLANS AIMED AT ATTRACTING A THRONG OF TOURISTS.
HERE IN KOSEI VILLAGE, THEY'RE CREATING A VILLAGE-RUN RESTAURANT THAT PROUDLY SHOWCASES A BRAND-NEW SIGNATURE DISH,
湖西村
湖西村館

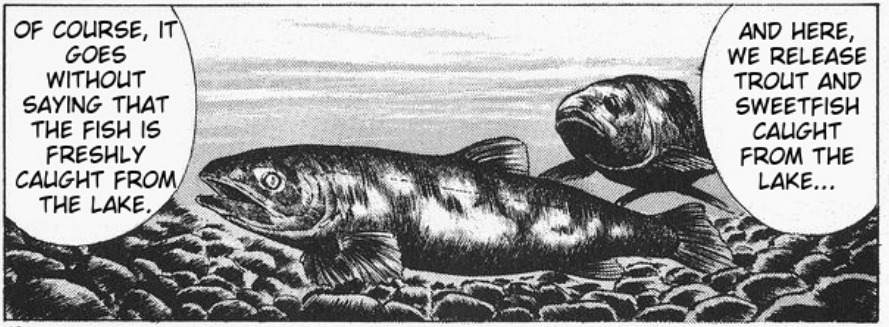
AS VARIOUS VILLAGES ACROSS THE PREFECTURE BRING FORTH THEIR IDEAS FOR REVITALIZING THEIR COMMUNITIES...

16

THE MASTERMIND BEHIND THE PROJECT IN KOSEI VILLAGE IS NONE OTHER THAN THE RENOWNED POTTER AND CULINARY CONNOISSEUR, MR. YUZAN KAIBARA, WHO HEADS A PRESTIGIOUS GOURMET CLUB IN TOKYO.

PROFESSOR KAIBARA, COULD YOU PLEASE ELABORATE ON THE DETAILS OF THE PROJECT?
HONESTLY, I FIND THE USUAL TOURISTY DISHES TO BE UTTERLY TRIVIAL... I WANTED TO CREATE SOMETHING FRESH AND DELIGHTFUL THAT WOULD PLEASE A CROWD.
KOSEI VILLAGE EXPRESSED THEIR DESIRE TO CRAFT A SIGNATURE DISH TO ATTRACT THRONGS OF TOURISTS.
17
AND FIRST, I DECIDED TO MAKE USE OF THE FISH FROM THE LAKE...
SO, WHAT I ENVISIONED WAS A DISH THAT UTILIZES THE BOUNTIES OF KOSEI VILLAGE, A CULINARY EXPERIENCE THAT INVITES DINERS TO PARTAKE IN THE JOY OF COOKING ITSELF.

IN FRONT OF THE TATAMI ROOM, WE'VE CRAFTED A WINDING ARTIFICIAL RIVER, ABOUT A METER WIDE.

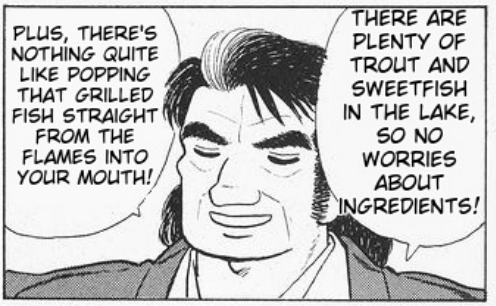

OF COURSE, IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT THE FISH IS FRESHLY CAUGHT FROM THE LAKE.
AND HERE, WE RELEASE TROUT AND SWEETFISH CAUGHT FROM THE LAKE...

18

THE GUESTS SETTLE ONTO THE WOODEN BENCHES, SAVORING THE WARM, GRILLED FISH.
THE CHEF SKEWERS THE FISH AND GRILLS IT OVER THE GLOWING CHARCOAL...

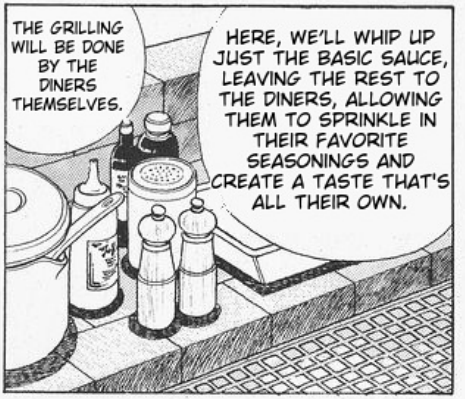
THE GUESTS SCOOP THE FISH WITH THEIR OWN HANDS AND PASS IT TO THE CHEF.

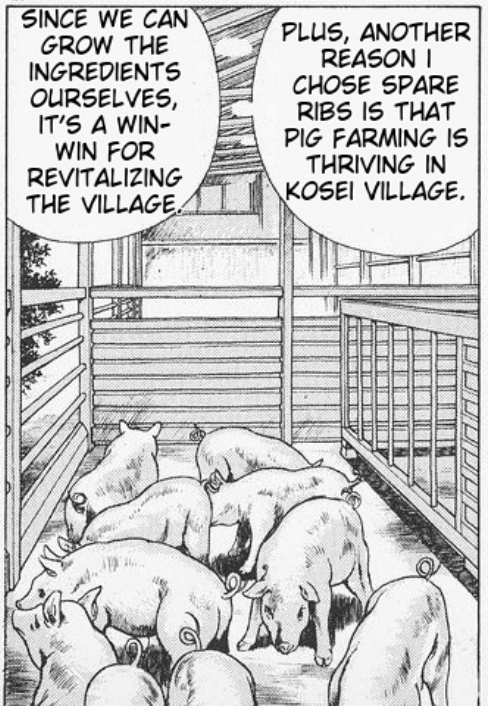
DELICIOUS!

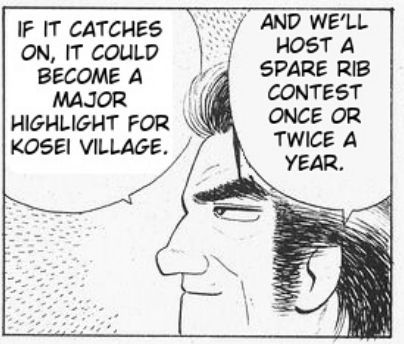


19

IN AMERICA, SPARE RIBS ARE SO BELOVED THAT COMPETITIONS POP UP ALL OVER THE PLACE, AND EACH COOK BRINGS THEIR OWN UNIQUE FLAVOR TO THE TABLE...
BARBECUED SPARE RIBS.


THE GRILLING WILL BE DONE BY THE DINERS THEMSELVES.
HERE, WE'LL WHIP UP JUST THE BASIC SAUCE, LEAVING THE REST TO THE DINERS, ALLOWING THEM TO SPRINKLE IN THEIR FAVORITE SEASONINGS AND CREATE A TASTE THAT'S ALL THEIR OWN.


SINCE WE CAN GROW THE INGREDIENTS OURSELVES, IT'S A WIN-WIN FOR REVITALIZING THE VILLAGE.
PLUS, ANOTHER REASON I CHOSE SPARE RIBS IS THAT PIG FARMING IS THRIVING IN KOSEI VILLAGE.


IF IT CATCHES ON, IT COULD BECOME A MAJOR HIGHLIGHT FOR KOSEI VILLAGE.
AND WE'LL HOST A SPARE RIB CONTEST ONCE OR TWICE A YEAR.

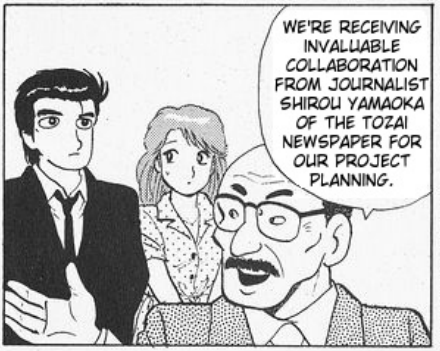
REALLY! JUST IMAGINE THE JOY OF THE 'KOSEI VILLAGE SPARE RIB FESTIVAL'-IT WOULD BE A BLAST!

I BELIEVE BOTH ARE FANTASTIC IDEAS THAT WILL ENTICE BOTH THE YOUNG AND THE OLD!
LIVE FISH CATCHES AND SPARE RIBS!

I'M SURE THEY'RE HIDING SOME SNEAKY TRICKS UP THEIR SLEEVES.
I JUST DON'T GET IT...

HE MUST BE FEELING PRETTY CONFIDENT...
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT HIROKO-SAN TOLD US HE WOULD DO. HE DIDN'T ALTER A THING...

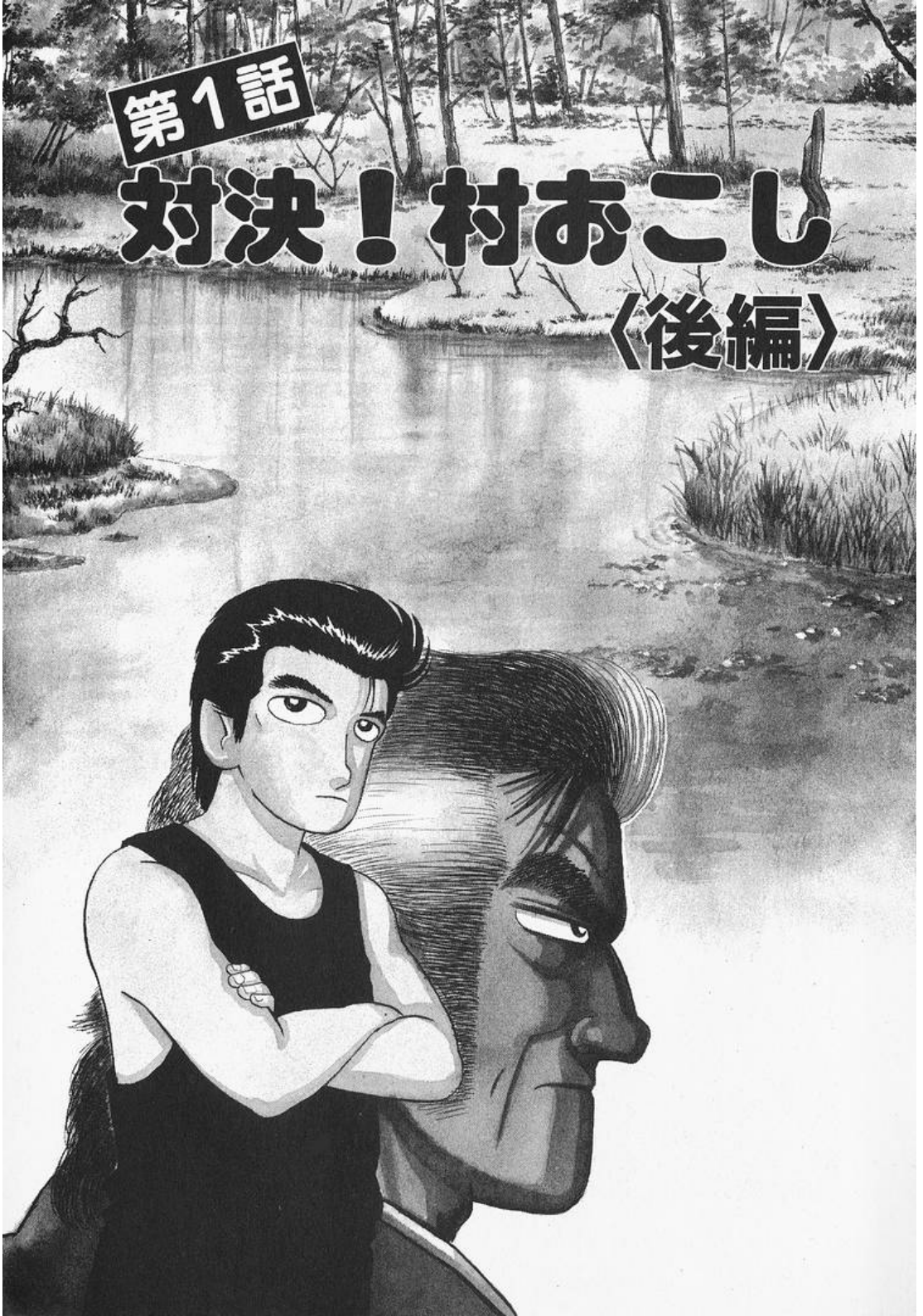
21

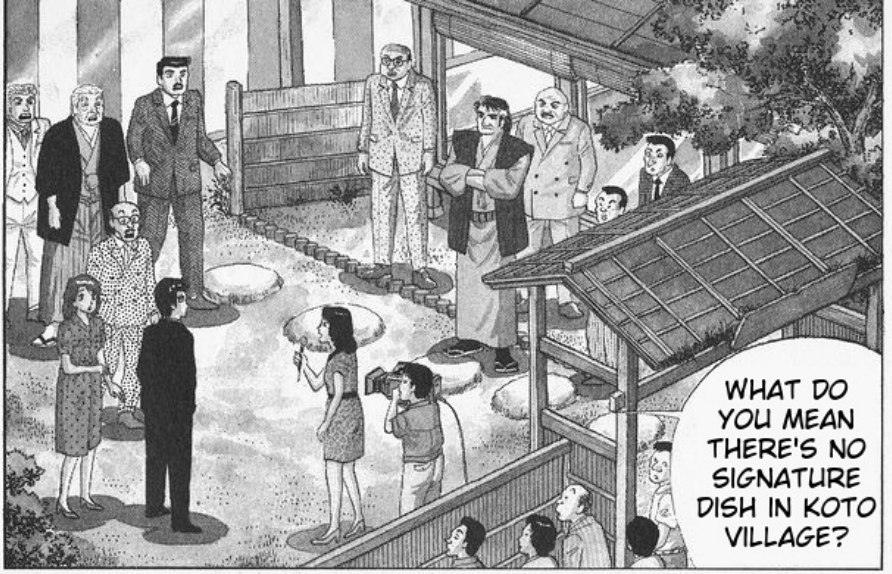

WE'RE RECEIVING INVALUABLE COLLABORATION FROM JOURNALIST SHIROU YAMAOKA OF THE TOZAI NEWSPAPER FOR OUR PROJECT PLANNING.

KOTO VILLAGE IS ALSO WORKING ON A FACILITY TO SHOWCASE THEIR LOCAL DELICACIES, AIMING TO ATTRACT TOURISTS.
NEXT UP IS OUR NEIGHBORING KOTO VILLAGE.
KOTO VILLAGE HALL.

MR. YAMAOKA, WHAT LOCAL DELICACY WILL KOTO VILLAGE BE PRESENTING?

WHA-
WHAT?!
WE DON'T HAVE ANY SIGNATURE DISHES HERE!
KOTO VILLAGE IS...
YAMAOKA-SAN...!
22


第1話
対決！村おこし
〈後編〉


WHAT DO YOU MEAN THERE'S NO SIGNATURE DISH IN KOTO VILLAGE?

.....

2

THERE IS NO "SIGNATURE" DISH...
THAT'S WHAT I'M SAYING.

ざわ
ざわ
KOTO VILLAGE JOINED THE 'VILLAGE REVITALIZATION FESTIVAL' TO PROMOTE A LOCAL SPECIALTY, RIGHT...?

THAT'S JUST OUTRAGEOUS!!
AND NOW YOU'RE SAYING THERE'S NOTHING SPECIAL AT ALL...!?

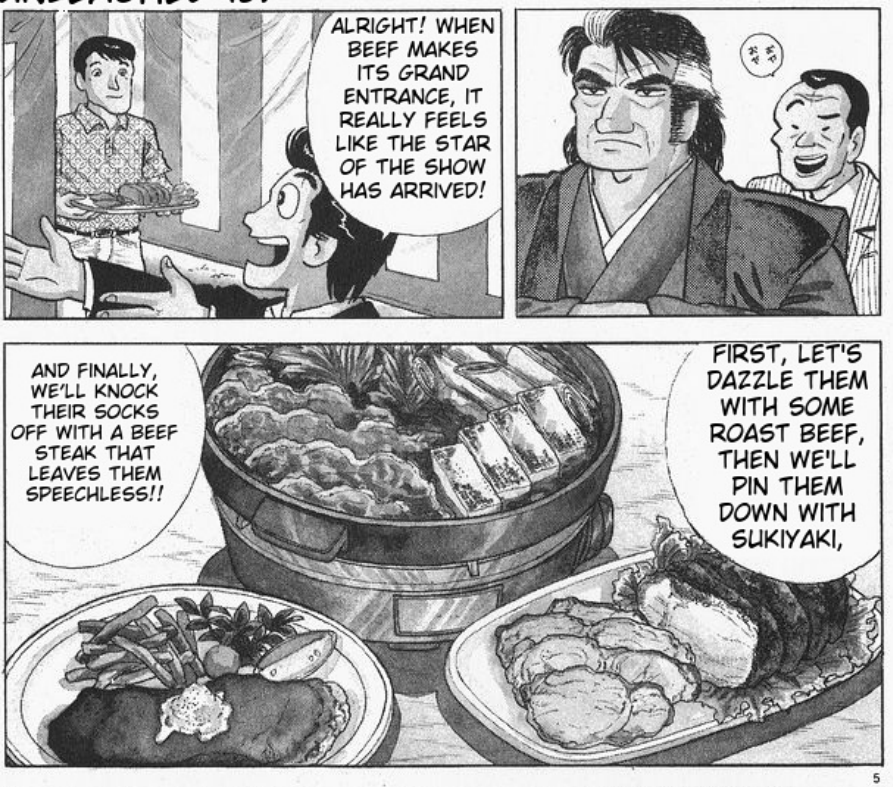
DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED 19!

27 *TL NOTE: WHILE IT'S NOT ENTIRELY UNHEARD OF, BE VERY CAREFUL ABOUT EATING RAW POULTRY. EVEN WITH THE BEST OF PREPARATION, THERE HAVE BEEN INSTANCES OF FOOD POISONING. SO JUST EXERCISE CAUTION.

※1ブリマスロック種の系統。白色と横斑があり、一般的な肉卵兼用種。

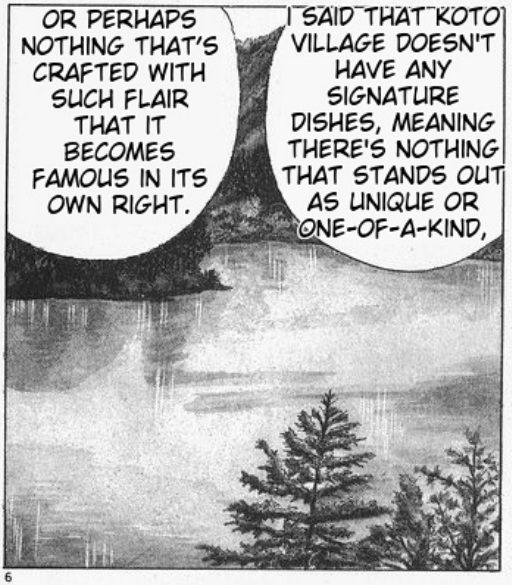
※デンマーク在来種を改良した白ブタ。脂肪が薄く、赤肉率が高い。

DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED 19!



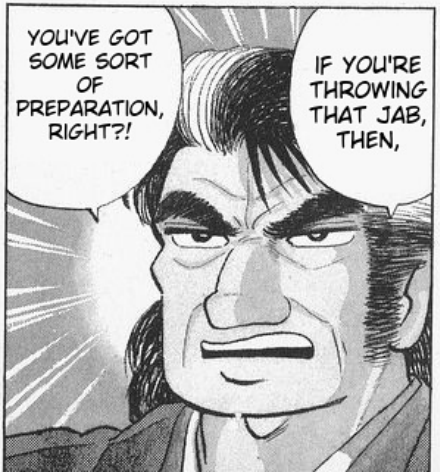
I'M NOT SUBSCRIBING TO YOUR PATHETIC NEWSPAPER!!
YOU'RE A CON ARTIST!!
SHUT IT-!!

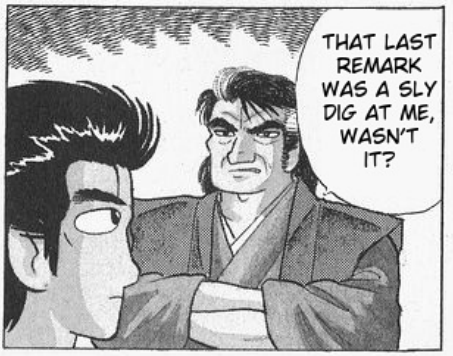
THERE'S NO SIGNATURE DISH IN KOTO VILLAGE.
SO SEE, I TOLD YOU.


I SAID THAT KOTO VILLAGE DOESN'T HAVE ANY SIGNATURE DISHES, MEANING THERE'S NOTHING THAT STANDS OUT AS UNIQUE OR ONE-OF-A-KIND,
OR PERHAPS NOTHING THAT'S CRAFTED WITH SUCH FLAIR THAT IT BECOMES FAMOUS IN ITS OWN RIGHT.

LET ME EXPLAIN.
EVERYONE! PLEASE, QUIET DOWN.

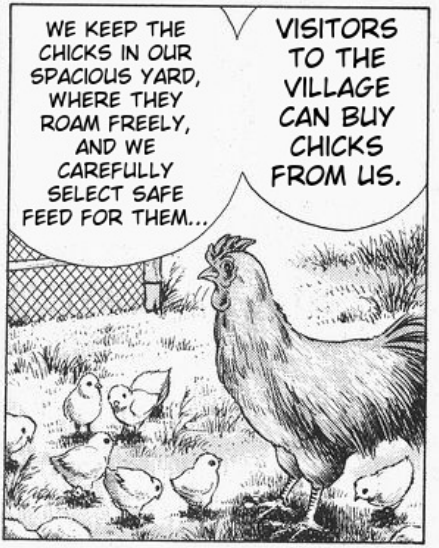
6

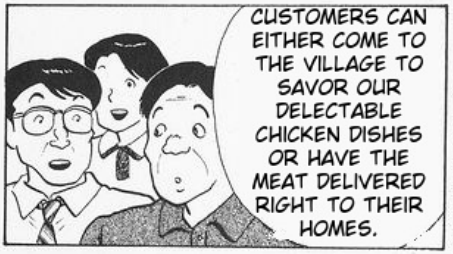

YOU'VE GOT SOME SORT OF PREPARATION, RIGHT?!
IF YOU'RE THROWING THAT JAB, THEN,


THAT LAST REMARK WAS A SLY DIG AT ME, WASN'T IT?

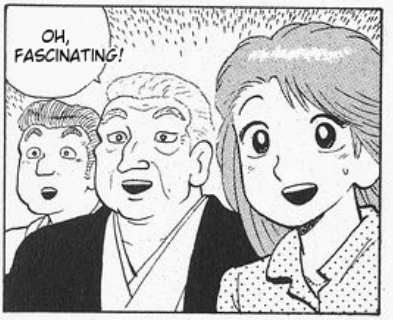
DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED 19!

AND WHEN THE TIME IS JUST RIGHT, WE HANDLE THE PROCESSING AND COLLECT THE REARING FEES UP TO THAT POINT.

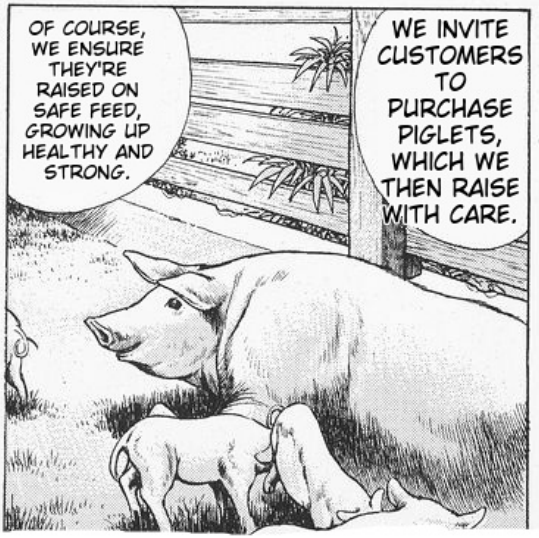

VISITORS TO THE VILLAGE CAN BUY CHICKS FROM US.
WE KEEP THE CHICKS IN OUR SPACIOUS YARD, WHERE THEY ROAM FREELY, AND WE CAREFULLY SELECT SAFE FEED FOR THEM...


CUSTOMERS CAN EITHER COME TO THE VILLAGE TO SAVOR OUR DELECTABLE CHICKEN DISHES OR HAVE THE MEAT DELIVERED RIGHT TO THEIR HOMES.

OUR GROUP WILL TAKE CHARGE OF RAISING THE PIGS.

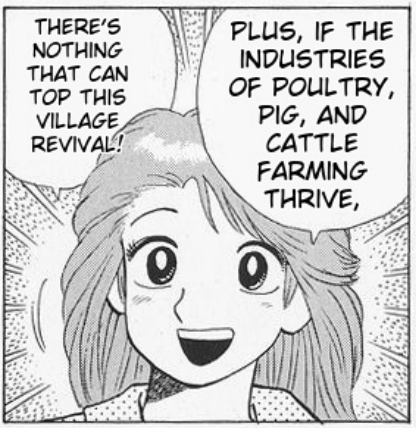

OH, FASCINATING!

WHEN A GROUP OF PEOPLE JOINTLY BUYS ONE PIG,
IT ELIMINATES WASTE AND LIGHTENS THE LOAD FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL.


WE INVITE CUSTOMERS TO PURCHASE PIGLETS, WHICH WE THEN RAISE WITH CARE.
OF COURSE, WE ENSURE THEY'RE RAISED ON SAFE FEED, GROWING UP HEALTHY AND STRONG.

DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED 19!

IT'S LIKE HAVING YOUR VERY OWN FARM, YOU KNOW!
BUT IF YOU CAN GO TO KOTO VILLAGE AND HANDPICK LIVESTOCK RAISED ON SAFE FEED— NOW THAT'S A TREMENDOUS HELP!


THERE'S NOTHING THAT CAN TOP THIS VILLAGE REVIVAL!
PLUS, IF THE INDUSTRIES OF POULTRY, PIG, AND CATTLE FARMING THRIVE,

KOTO VILLAGE IS BOUND TO CAPTURE CONSUMERS' HEARTS AS A SAFE HAVEN FOR AUTHENTIC MEAT.

10

A TWIST AT THE VERY END? HOW COOL IS THAT!
WOW, YAMAOKA-SAN, THIS IS AMAZING!

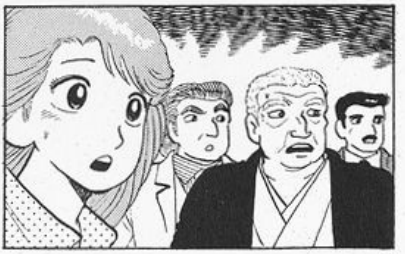
おおーーっ!

BRAVO! THIS IS THE EPITOME OF REVITALIZING A VILLAGE!
THIS IS TRULY A VALUABLE SPECIALTY!

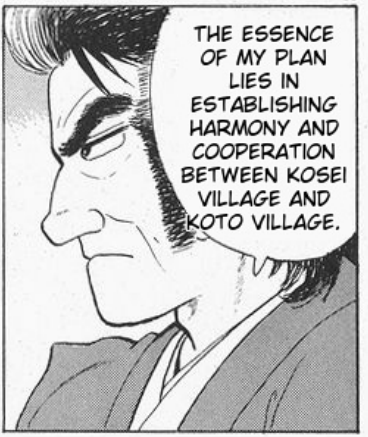
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH, SHIRO!
DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN OUTSMART ME WITH SOMETHING SO TRIVIAL?!

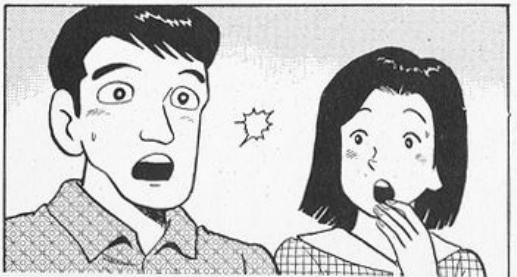
I WANTED TO SEE HOW YOU UNDERSTOOD THE TRUE INTENT OF MY PLAN.
THE REASON I APPROACHED THIS FESTIVAL WITHOUT CHANGING MY PLAN IS,
THE TRUE INTENT?

WHAT?!

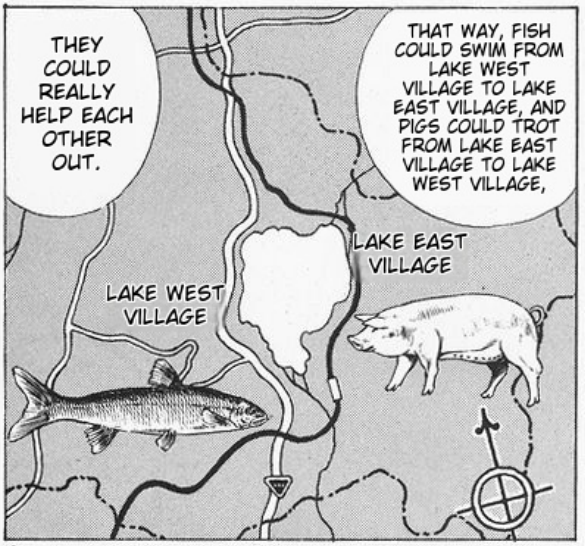


W-WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?!


THE ESSENCE OF MY PLAN LIES IN ESTABLISHING HARMONY AND COOPERATION BETWEEN KOSEI VILLAGE AND KOTO VILLAGE.



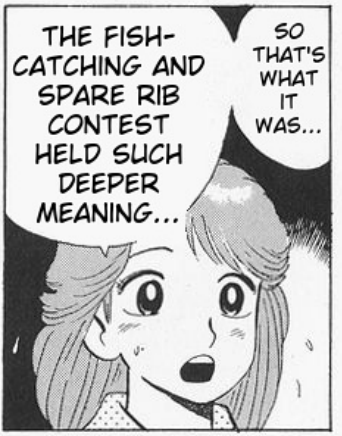
I'VE HEARD THAT THE ROOT CAUSE OF THE FEUD BETWEEN THE TWO VILLAGES STEMS FROM THE FISHING RIGHTS IN THE LAKE.
AND NOW, IT'S CLEAR THAT FISHING IS BOOMING IN LAKE WEST VILLAGE, WHILE LAKE EAST VILLAGE HAS NEARLY ABANDONED FISHING ALTOGETHER TO FOCUS ON LIVESTOCK.
IT'S A REALITY WE CAN'T OVERLOOK...


THAT WAY, FISH COULD SWIM FROM LAKE WEST VILLAGE TO LAKE EAST VILLAGE, AND PIGS COULD TROT FROM LAKE EAST VILLAGE TO LAKE WEST VILLAGE,
THEY COULD REALLY HELP EACH OTHER OUT.
LAKE EAST VILLAGE
LAKE WEST VILLAGE

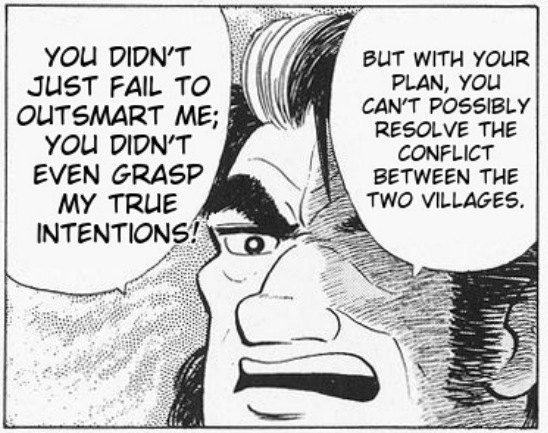
HONESTLY, I WISH WE COULD HOLD BOTH THE FISH-CATCHING EVENT AND THE SPARE RIB CONTEST IN BOTH VILLAGES.

12

HMM...
I DID NOT EXPECT SUCH A HEARTFELT GESTURE FROM KAIBARA YUZAN.


SO THAT'S WHAT IT WAS...
THE FISH-CATCHING AND SPARE RIB CONTEST HELD SUCH DEEPER MEANING...

DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED 19!



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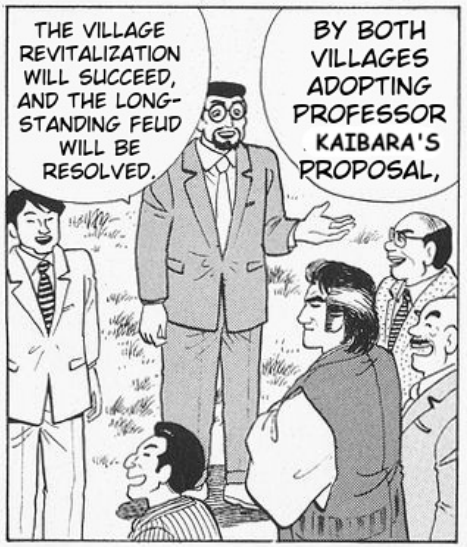
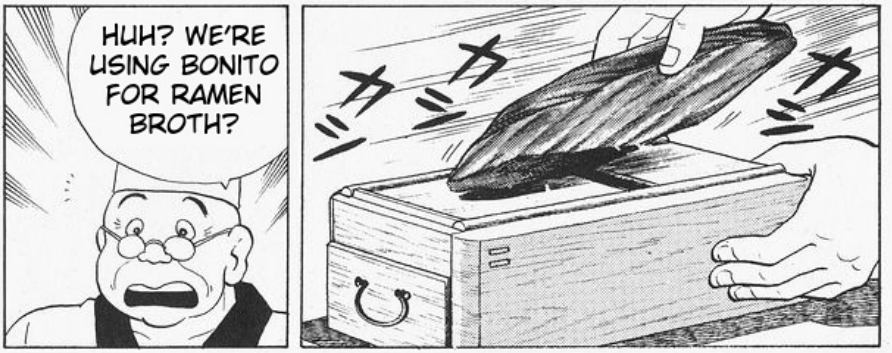


HOLD ON, IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE!
.....
DO YOU REALLY THINK WE, THE FOLKS FROM KOTO VILLAGE, WILL JUST ACCEPT IT WITHOUT A FIGHT?
AND YET, NO MATTER HOW BRILLIANT THE IDEA MIGHT BE, IF IT'S PROPOSED UNILATERALLY BY KOSEI VILLAGE-
WHY'S THAT?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT! THE RIVALRY BETWEEN THE TWO VILLAGES HAS BEEN GOING ON FOR AGES.
14
BUT, YOU KNOW... CAN YOU REALLY COME UP WITH A NEW PROPOSAL?
I SEE NOW...
ONLY THEN CAN THE TWO VILLAGES ESTABLISH A BALANCED COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP, RIGHT?
WE'LL ALSO PUT FORWARD OUR OWN IDEAS FOR COOPERATION.
おこし祭り
入口
!
IT'S POSSIBLE, ISN'T IT?

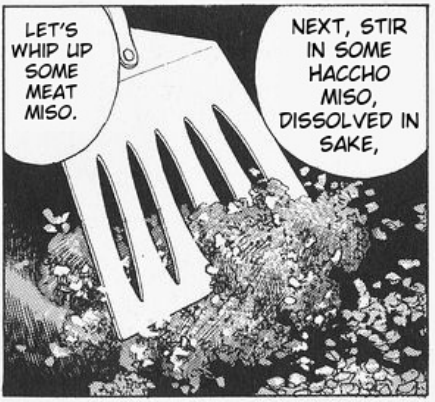
DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED 19!

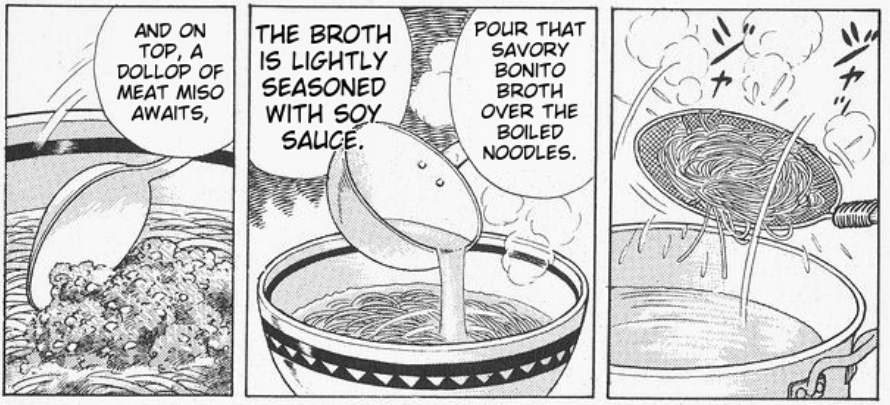
STOP SAYING THINGS THAT JUST IRRITATE ME!
OH, WOULD YOU JUST SHUT UP?!
IF A GOOD IDEA DOESN'T COME TO MIND, THOSE TWO VILLAGES WILL...
HOW ABOUT SOME RAMEN TO WRAP THINGS UP? OUR RAMEN IS QUITE THE TALK OF THE TOWN!
プ
16
GROUND MEAT! ALRIGHT, LET'S DO THIS...
CAN'T YOU LET ME WHIP SOMETHING UP TO BLOW OFF SOME STEAM?
RAMEN, HUH...
I'M SO SORRY, BUT COULD YOU JUST INDULGE HIM?
IS THAT WHAT THE CUSTOMERS WANT?

DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED 19!



17

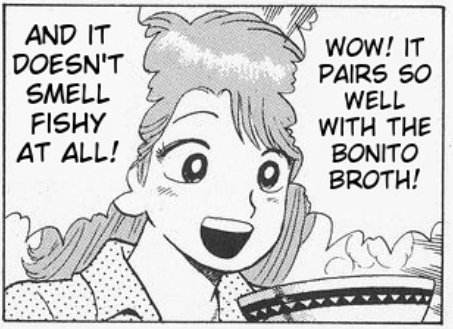



AND ON TOP, A DOLLOP OF MEAT MISO AWAITS,
THE BROTH IS LIGHTLY SEASONED WITH SOY SAUCE.
POUR THAT SAVORY BONITO BROTH OVER THE BOILED NOODLES.

SLURP...!
YOU'VE GOT A MASTERPIECE OF MISO RAMEN, JUST LIKE IN 'GOURMET WORLD'!
WHEN YOU GENEROUSLY SPRINKLE CHOPPED GREEN ONIONS ON TOP...

18

THE AROMA OF BONITO FLAKES HARMONIZES SO PERFECTLY, DOESN'T IT?!
THE FRAGRANCE OF SESAME OIL, GARLIC, AND MISO WAFTS THROUGH THE AIR,


AND IT DOESN'T SMELL FISHY AT ALL!
WOW! IT PAIRS SO WELL WITH THE BONITO BROTH!

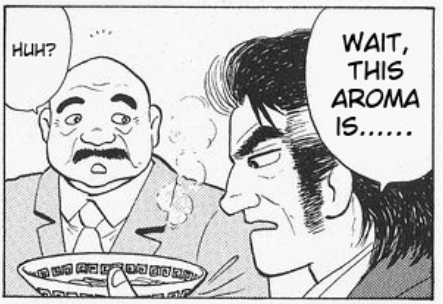
DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED 19!

THIS IS JUST AN ORDINARY...
... RAMEN?

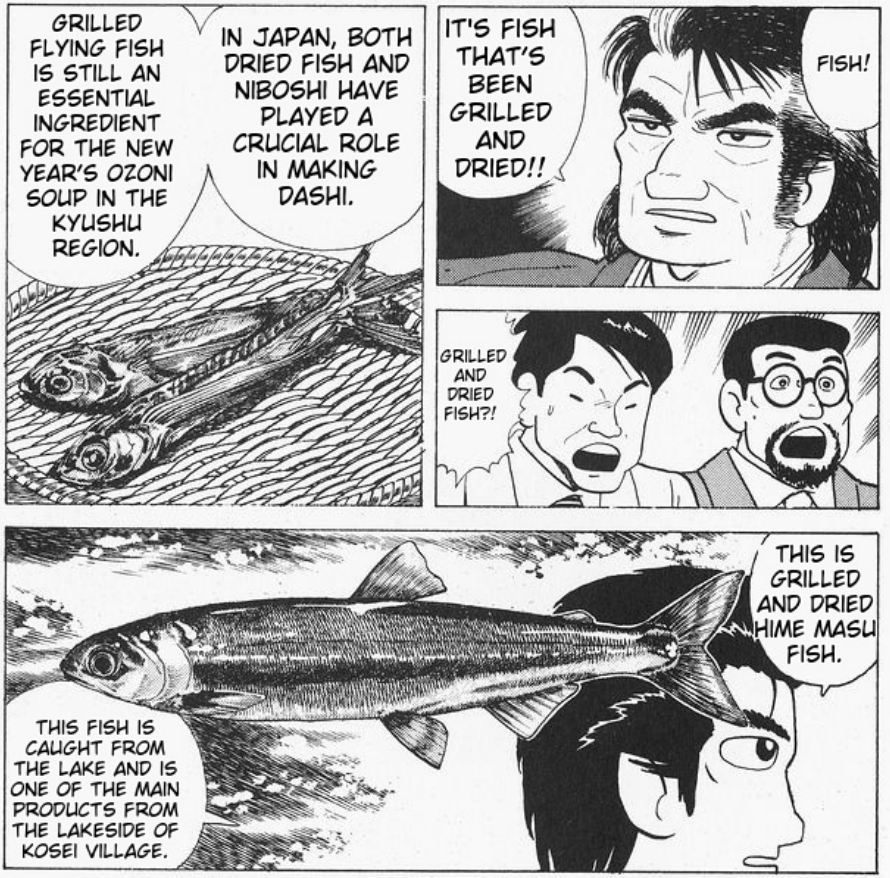
OH DEAR... THIS IS A DISASTER...
HAS YAMAOKA LOST HIS MIND...?

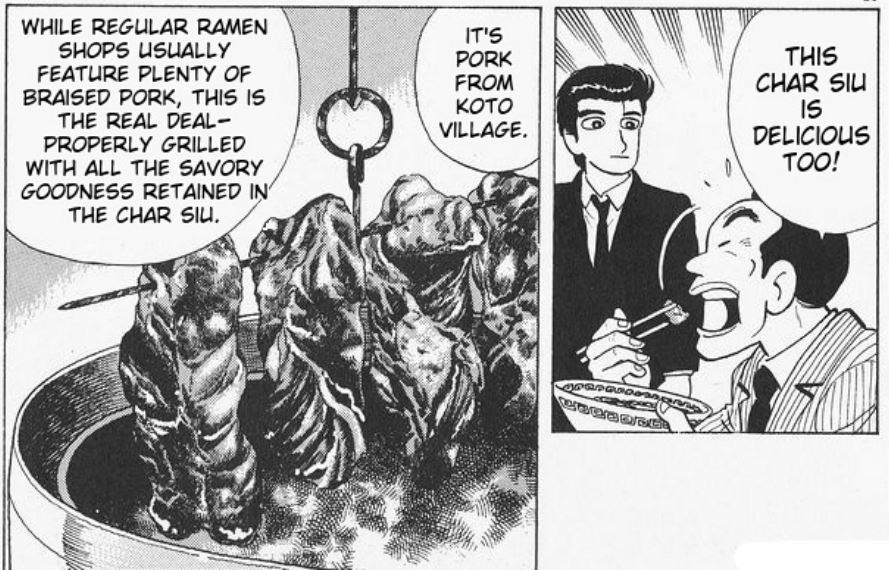
20

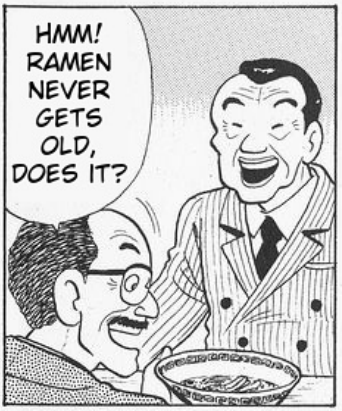
ABSOLUTELY SPLENDID!
OH WOW! THIS IS GONNA BE AMAZING!
THIS BROTH IS SOMETHING ELSE! WHAT ON EARTH IS IT MADE FROM...?!

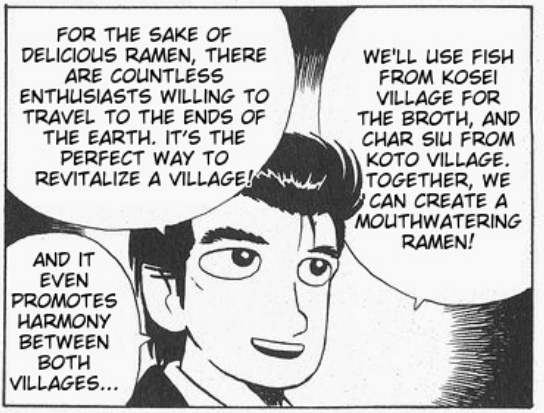

HUH?
WAIT, THIS AROMA IS.....

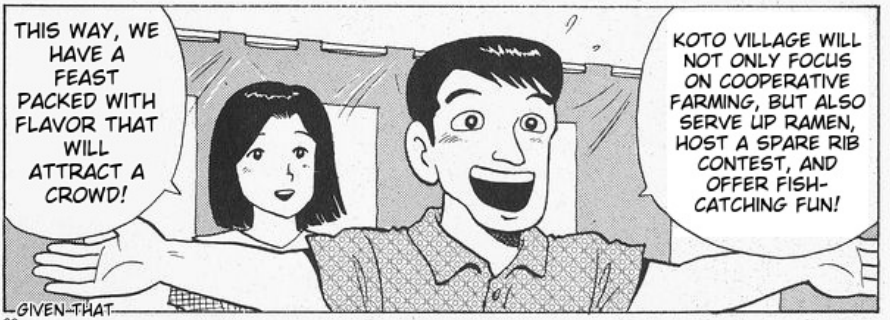
DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED 19!

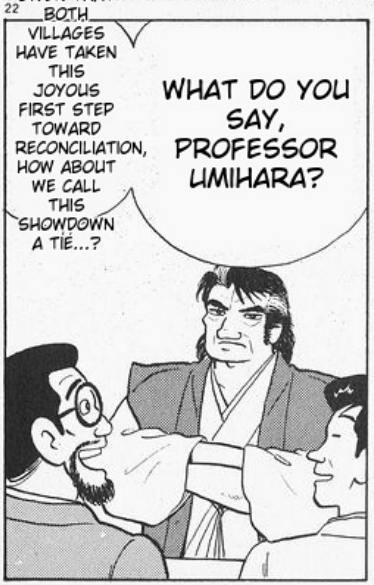





HMM! RAMEN NEVER GETS OLD, DOES IT?


FOR THE SAKE OF DELICIOUS RAMEN, THERE ARE COUNTLESS ENTHUSIASTS WILLING TO TRAVEL TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH. IT'S THE PERFECT WAY TO REVITALIZE A VILLAGE!
WE'LL USE FISH FROM KOSEI VILLAGE FOR THE BROTH, AND CHAR SIU FROM KOTO VILLAGE. TOGETHER, WE CAN CREATE A MOUTHWATERING RAMEN!
AND IT EVEN PROMOTES HARMONY BETWEEN BOTH VILLAGES...

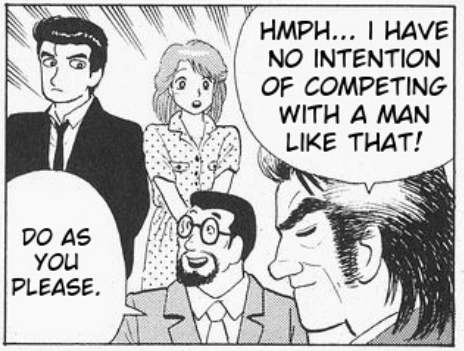

THIS WAY, WE HAVE A FEAST PACKED WITH FLAVOR THAT WILL ATTRACT A CROWD!
KOTO VILLAGE WILL NOT ONLY FOCUS ON COOPERATIVE FARMING, BUT ALSO SERVE UP RAMEN, HOST A SPARE RIB CONTEST, AND OFFER FISH-CATCHING FUN!


GIVEN THAT BOTH VILLAGES HAVE TAKEN THIS JOYOUS FIRST STEP TOWARD RECONCILIATION, HOW ABOUT WE CALL THIS SHOWDOWN A TIE...?
WHAT DO YOU SAY, PROFESSOR UMIHARA?

KOSEI VILLAGE IS ON BOARD FOR THIS RAMEN ADVENTURE TOO!

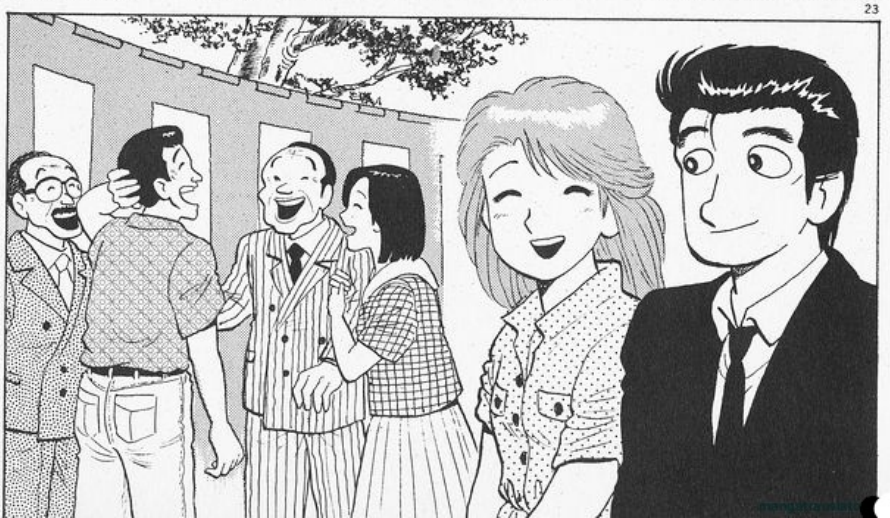
ABSOLUTELY!
MAYOR SUNAKAWA, LET'S PUT THE PAST BEHIND US AND START FRESH!

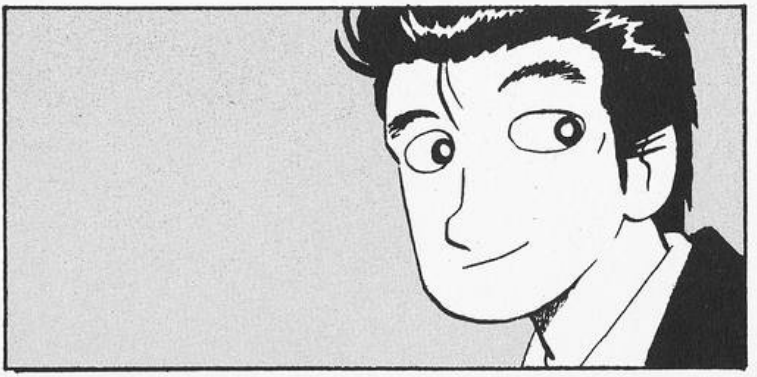
NEXT TIME, I WON'T HOLD BACK.
THIS IS AN EXHIBITION MATCH, SO I LET IT SLIDE.


HMPH... I HAVE NO INTENTION OF COMPETING WITH A MAN LIKE THAT!
DO AS YOU PLEASE.

NOW, SUNAKAWA-SAN WILL FINALLY BE UNITED WITH HIROKO-SAN.

.....





第2話 杜氏（とじ）と水

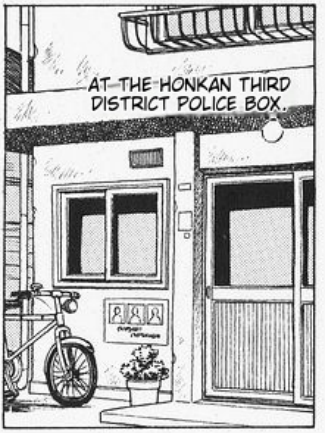
AND WAY TOO LATE FOR SOMETHING SWEET.
IT'S TOO EARLY TO DIVE INTO THE DRINKS,
IT'S JUST SUCH A TRICKY TIME, ISN'T IT...?
SOUNDS GREAT! THE CAFÉ AT 'YARATO' HAS SUCH A LOVELY VIBE.
HOW ABOUT WE HEAD TO THE SECOND FLOOR OF 'YARATO' FOR SOME TEA AND SWEET BUNS?
THAT'S NOT TRUE AT ALL!
2
WAIT! WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?!
I CAN NEVER RESIST SUCH TEMPTING OFFERS, IT'S HARD TO SAY NO.
STARTING WITH TEA AND BUNS...
HUH?

DELICIOUS!

ドドド
W-WHAT?!
GAH!
LET ME GO, WILL YOU?!
!
LET GO? NO! YOU LET GO OF IT!
I SAID LET ME GO ALREADY!
THAT WAS A CLOSE CALL; THE CONTENTS WERE ABOUT TO SPILL EVERYWHERE!

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TWO DOING OUT HERE?! YOU'RE DISTURBING THE PEACE!
ALRIGHT, CUT IT OUT!

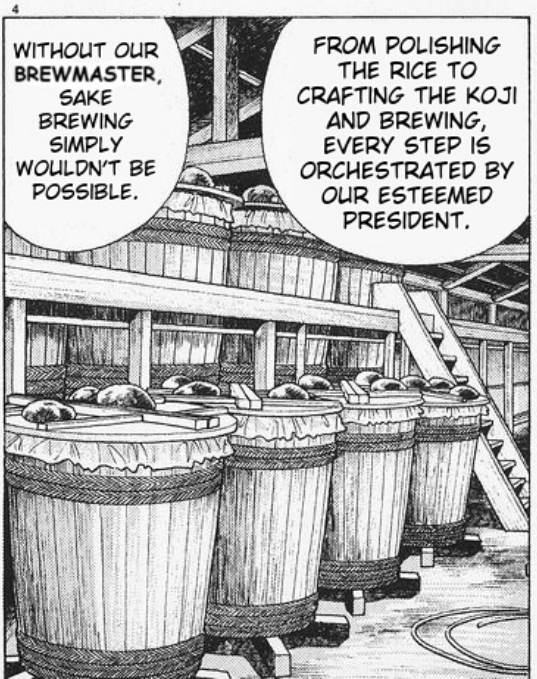
.....


AT THE HONKAN THIRD DISTRICT POLICE BOX.

HE'S OUR NEW BREW-MASTER.
THIS GENTLEMAN HERE IS TEPPEI KIYAMA,

I'M AN EXECUTIVE AT A SAKE BREWING COMPANY CALLED 'EDO ICHIBAN'...
I GO BY THE NAME OF KOUJI KINNO.

4

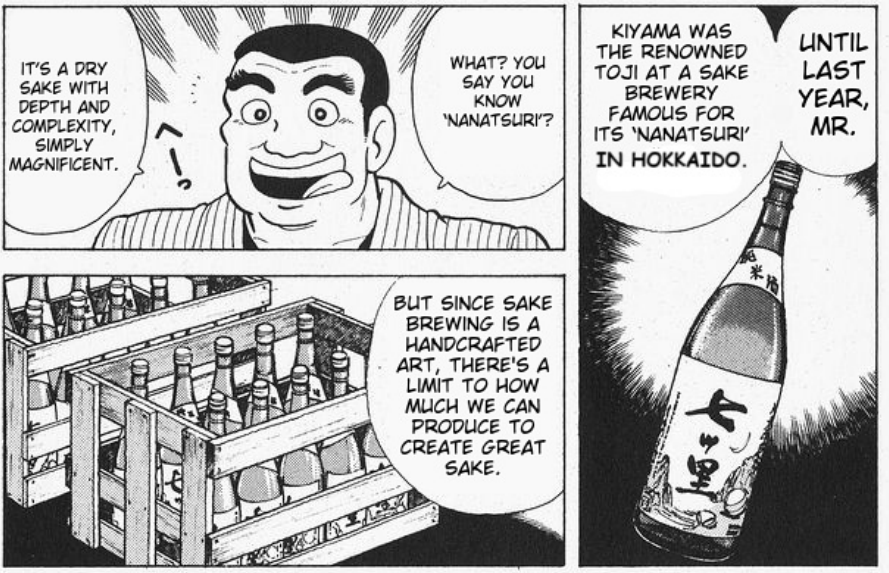

WITHOUT OUR BREWMASTER, SAKE BREWING SIMPLY WOULDN'T BE POSSIBLE.
FROM POLISHING THE RICE TO CRAFTING THE KOJI AND BREWING, EVERY STEP IS ORCHESTRATED BY OUR ESTEEMED PRESIDENT.

WHEN YOU MENTION THE PRESIDENT, YOU MEAN THE ONE IN SAKE BREWING, RIGHT?

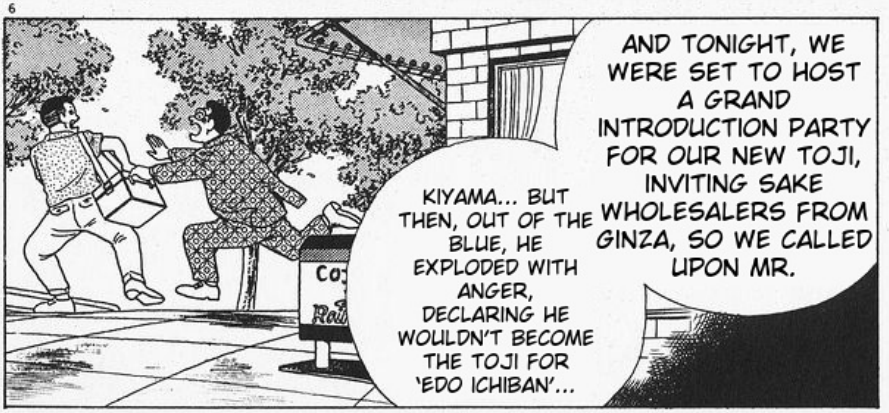
OH, REALLY...

DELICIOUS!

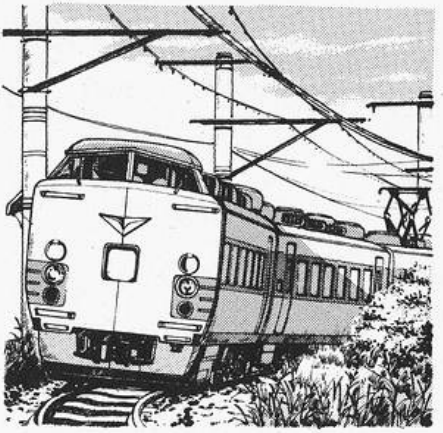
I CAN'T QUITE EXPLAIN WHY. IT'S A LONG STORY...
WELL, ACTUALLY...
SO, WHAT EXACTLY WAS THE DISPUTE BETWEEN THE COMPANY PRESIDENT AND THE SAKE BREWERY'S OWNER?
ADMITTEDLY, IT WASN'T THE KIND OF EXQUISITE SAKE THAT WOULD EARN US YOUR PRAISE...
AS YOU CAN TELL FROM OUR NAME, 'EDO ICHIBAN', WE CRAFT SAKE RIGHT HERE IN THE HEART OF TOKYO,
WHAT? YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND?
5
AND THAT'S WHEN I HEARD ABOUT MR. KIYAMA.
WHAT WE NEED IS A TALENTED MASTER BREWER...
IF WE KEEP GOING LIKE THIS, OUR SALES WILL PLUMMET, AND WE'LL BE OUT OF BUSINESS,
BUT AFTER MY FATHER PASSED, MY BROTHER TOOK OVER AS PRESIDENT, AND I BECAME THE EXECUTIVE.
WE RESOLVED TO CREATE EVEN BETTER SAKE TO TURN THINGS AROUND.

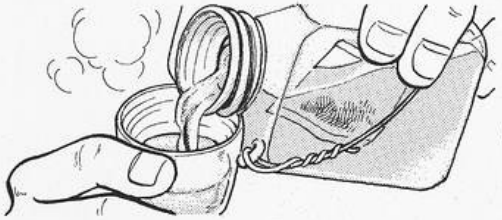

IT'S A DRY SAKE WITH DEPTH AND COMPLEXITY, SIMPLY MAGNIFICENT.
WHAT? YOU SAY YOU KNOW 'NANATSURI'?
BUT SINCE SAKE BREWING IS A HANDCRAFTED ART, THERE'S A LIMIT TO HOW MUCH WE CAN PRODUCE TO CREATE GREAT SAKE.
KIYAMA WAS THE RENOWNED TOJI AT A SAKE BREWERY FAMOUS FOR ITS 'NANATSURI' IN HOKKAIDO.
UNTIL LAST YEAR, MR.
MY BROTHER AND I DESPERATELY PLEADED, AND FINALLY, MR. KIYAMA AGREED TO BECOME OUR NEW BREWMASTER!
SUCH LUCK IS A RARE TREASURE.
MR. KIYAMA DECIDED TO PART WAYS WITH 'NANATSURI'.
HOWEVER, TENSIONS FLARED BETWEEN THE MASTER OF THE BREWERY, WHO DEMANDED PRODUCTION BEYOND THAT LIMIT, AND MR. KIYAMA, WHO ONLY WANTS TO CRAFT EXCEPTIONAL SAKE.

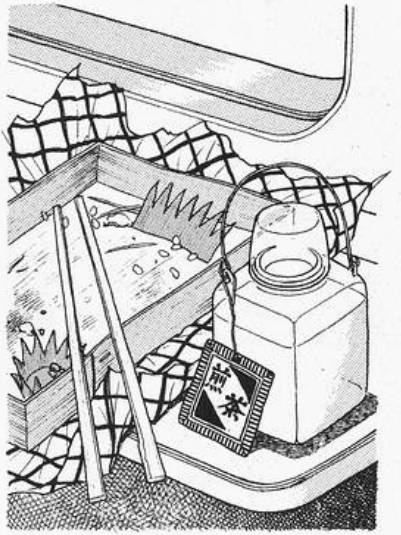
6


AND TONIGHT, WE WERE SET TO HOST A GRAND INTRODUCTION PARTY FOR OUR NEW TOJI, INVITING SAKE WHOLESALERS FROM GINZA, SO WE CALLED UPON MR.
KIYAMA... BUT THEN, OUT OF THE BLUE, HE EXPLODED WITH ANGER, DECLARING HE WOULDN'T BECOME THE TOJI FOR 'EDO ICHIBAN'...

COME ON, SPILL THE BEANS.
SO, WHY DID YOU SUDDENLY BLOW UP?
AH, I SEE, SO THAT'S WHAT WAS BREWING...
HEY, EXECUTIVE, DID YOU DO SOMETHING TO GET THAT BREWMASTER ALL RILED UP?
WHAT! KIYAMA, THAT'S JUST TOO MUCH...
I DON'T WANT TO SAY ANYTHING.
THIS MORNING, I WENT ALL THE WAY TO HOKKAIDO TO PICK UP KIYAMA...
THINK IT OVER CAREFULLY.
ISN'T IT FUNNY HOW WE OFTEN UNKNOWINGLY TICK PEOPLE OFF?
.....







8

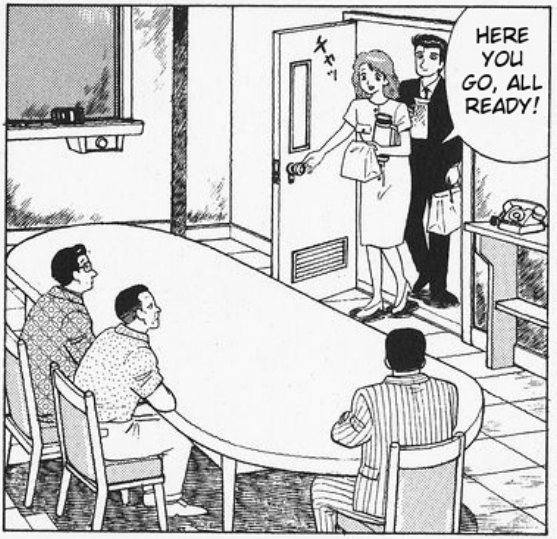
上野駅 UENO
Coffee
コーヒー
れいへいぼう

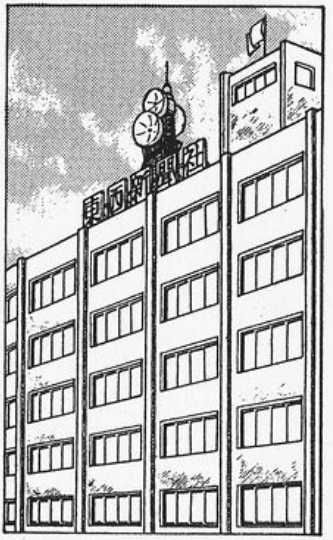
Coffee
Rainbow

THAT'S RIGHT, I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING TO UPSET MR. KIYAMA.
WHAT? IS THAT ALL YOU'VE GOT?

10

HUH?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? IT'S NO WONDER MR. KIYAMA GOT MAD!
UGH... I DON'T UNDERSTAND AT ALL...
OH!
I GET IT NOW, WHY MR. KIYAMA WAS SO FURIOUS!
W-WHY IS THAT?!
???
.....
KURITA IS ABOUT TO GIVE EVERYONE AN EXPLANATION!


HERE YOU GO, ALL READY!



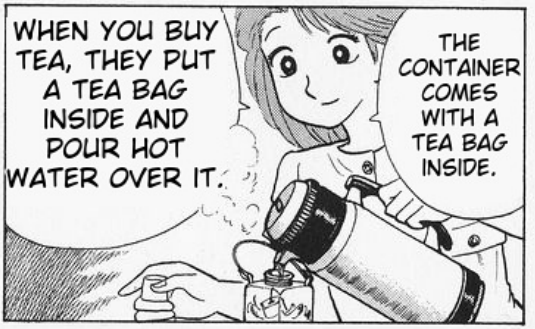
YES, IT'S DEFINITELY THE SAME THING...

ISN'T THIS THE TEA THAT KINNO-SAN BOUGHT ON THE TRAIN?

WOW, DID YOU REALLY GO ALL THE WAY TO THE STATION TO BUY THIS?!

12

NOW, GO AHEAD AND ENJOY!

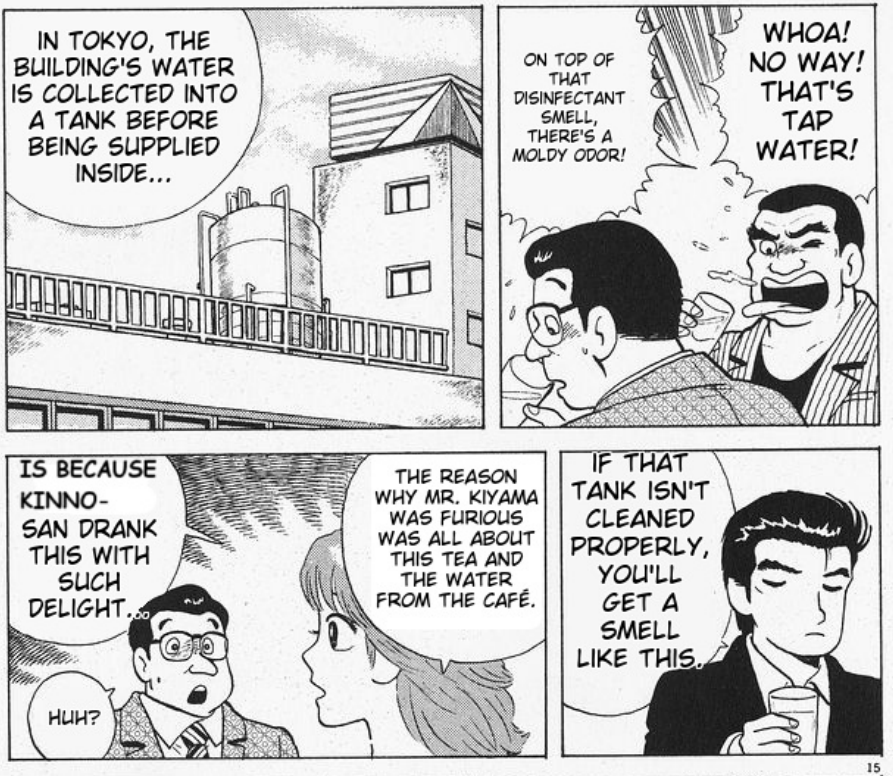

WHEN YOU BUY TEA, THEY PUT A TEA BAG INSIDE AND POUR HOT WATER OVER IT.
THE CONTAINER COMES WITH A TEA BAG INSIDE.

DELICIOUS!

ﾌﾞﾋﾞ
LATELY, I'VE BEEN FAVORING CANS OF BEER WAY TOO MUCH...
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, IT'S BEEN AGES SINCE I BOUGHT ANY STATION BENTO TEA.
HUH?
IT SMELLS JUST LIKE A DAMN CANDLE!
W-WHAT ON EARTH IS THIS?!
うげっ
I CAN ONLY ASSUME THAT POURING HOT WATER MAKES THE PLASTIC LEACH INTO THE TEA!
13
SOMEWHERE ALONG THE WAY, IT TURNED INTO THESE PLASTIC CONTAINERS...
WHEN IT COMES TO STATION BENTO TEA, BACK IN THE DAY, THEY USED TO SERVE IT IN SIMPLE EARTHENWARE POTS!
THE AROMA AND FLAVOR ARE UTTERLY HOPELESS, AND YOU JUST KNOW IT'S BAD FOR YOUR HEALTH!

THE EARTHENWARE POT IS PRICEY AND HEAVY, SO I GUESS THEY SWITCHED TO THIS, BUT-
I BELIEVE THAT IN THIS TEA FOR THE STATION BENTO, YOU CAN SEE HOW THE JAPANESE FOOD INDUSTRY HAS LOST ITS CONSCIENCE...
THAT GROTESQUENESS IS ALL WRAPPED UP IN IT.
THEY COULDN'T CARE LESS ABOUT THE HEALTH OF THEIR CUSTOMERS,
THEY DON'T EVEN SEEM TO CARE ABOUT GIVING SOMETHING DELICIOUS TO THE PEOPLE WHO BUY FROM THEM, DO THEY?
ウ〜〜ッ
HUH... I THOUGHT IT HAD A STRANGE SMELL, BUT...
I WAS JUST SO THIRSTY...
THIS IS THE WATER FROM THAT CAFÉ WHERE MR. KINNO AND MR. KIYAMA JUST WENT.
コポポ…
THAT CAFÉ'S WATER...?
14

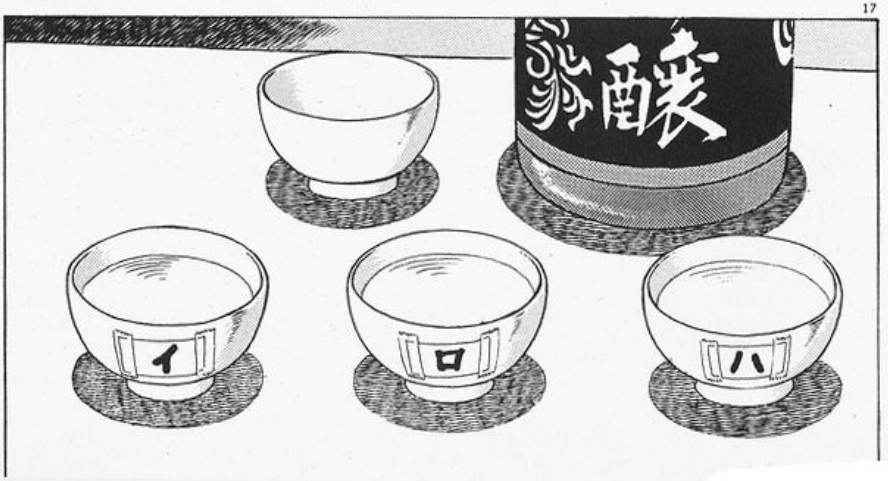
DELICIOUS!


IN TOKYO, THE BUILDING'S WATER IS COLLECTED INTO A TANK BEFORE BEING SUPPLIED INSIDE...
ON TOP OF THAT DISINFECTANT SMELL, THERE'S A MOLDY ODOR!
WHOA! NO WAY! THAT'S TAP WATER!
IS BECAUSE KINNO-SAN DRANK THIS WITH SUCH DELIGHT...
HUH?
THE REASON WHY MR. KIYAMA WAS FURIOUS WAS ALL ABOUT THIS TEA AND THE WATER FROM THE CAFÉ.
IF THAT TANK ISN'T CLEANED PROPERLY, YOU'LL GET A SMELL LIKE THIS.
15
あっ
AND IF THE OWNER, WHO SHOULD BE THE MOST DISCERNING, CAN'T EVEN TELL THE DIFFERENCE IN WATER TASTE, HOW CAN THEY POSSIBLY CRAFT FINE SAKE?
ISN'T WATER THE MOST CRUCIAL ELEMENT IN SAKE BREWING?
THAT'S PROOF THAT BOTH YOUR TASTE BUDS AND YOUR NOSE HAVE GONE BAD.
AND KINNO-SAN SMOKES TOO.

EVEN THOUGH I'M A BUSINESS OWNER, MY EXPERTISE LIES IN ACCOUNTING AND SALES, AS FOR BREWING SAKE...!
WAIT A MINUTE! THAT'S NOT TRUE!
ガタ
I SEE, SO THAT WOULD REALLY KILL THE MOTIVATION FOR THE TOJI, HUH?
IF YOU CAN'T EVEN APPRECIATE THE TASTE OF THE WATER, MR. KINNO, THEN IT'S GOING TO BE QUITE A CHALLENGE...
I KNOW IT SOUNDS A BIT PRESUMPTUOUS, BUT...
I WAS TOLD THAT MY YOUNGER BROTHER WAS IN HERE...
HELLO, I'M KUNINO.
スカ
THAT'S RIGHT! HE'S THE PRESIDENT!
ピーピー
16
WOULD YOU MIND?
MR. KIYAMA, PLEASE PUT MY BROTHER TO THE TEST!
MY OLDER BROTHER HAS A PALATE AND A NOSE THAT ARE TRULY EXCEPTIONAL, UNLIKE MINE!

DELICIOUS!

I'LL TEST THE PRESIDENT, AND IF IT DOESN'T WORK OUT, THEN YOU'LL HAVE TO DECLINE THE COMPANY'S OFFER...
KIYAMA-SAN, COULD YOU LEAVE THIS TO ME?
SIGH...
AND WHAT'S INSIDE THAT COOLER?
ALRIGHT... LET'S GO WITH THAT.
I THOUGHT I'D SHOW THE BREWERY OWNER HOW THIS WATER CREATES SUCH EXQUISITE SAKE...
THIS IS THE JUNMAI DAIGINJO 'NANATSURI' THAT I BREWED LAST YEAR, MADE WITH THE WATER FROM THAT VERY BREWERY.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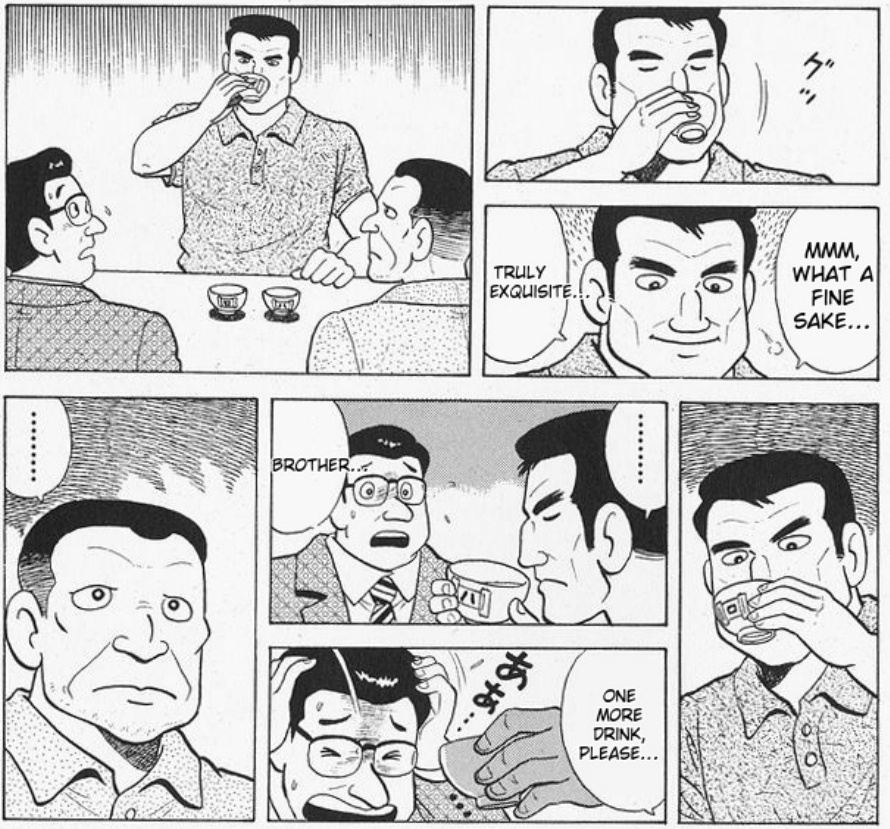
AND THEN THERE'S THE WATER FROM MOUNT FUJI THAT 'OKABOSHI' USES... AND THE WATER FROM KURAMA IN KYOTO USED BY THE GOURMET CLUB...
THE WATER USED IS FROM NANATSURI.
FROM THESE THREE, GUESS WHICH ONE IS THE WATER FROM NANATSURI.
NEXT, PLEASE TAKE A SIP FROM THE THREE TEACUPS PRESENTED BEFORE YOU.
FIRST, LET'S INDULGE IN THE PURE JUNMAI DAIGINJO FROM NANATSURI.
A FINELY CRAFTED SAKE RETAINS THE CHARACTER OF THE ORIGINAL WATER'S TASTE PERFECTLY.
THOSE WHO KNOW CAN DISCERN WHICH WATER WAS USED TO CREATE THIS SAKE.
WOW, THIS IS TOUGH...!
TO GUESS JUST FROM SIPPING THE SAKE... IS THAT EVEN POSSIBLE?!
18
LET'S START WITH THE SAKE...
LET'S GIVE IT A SHOT!
EXCELLENT...!

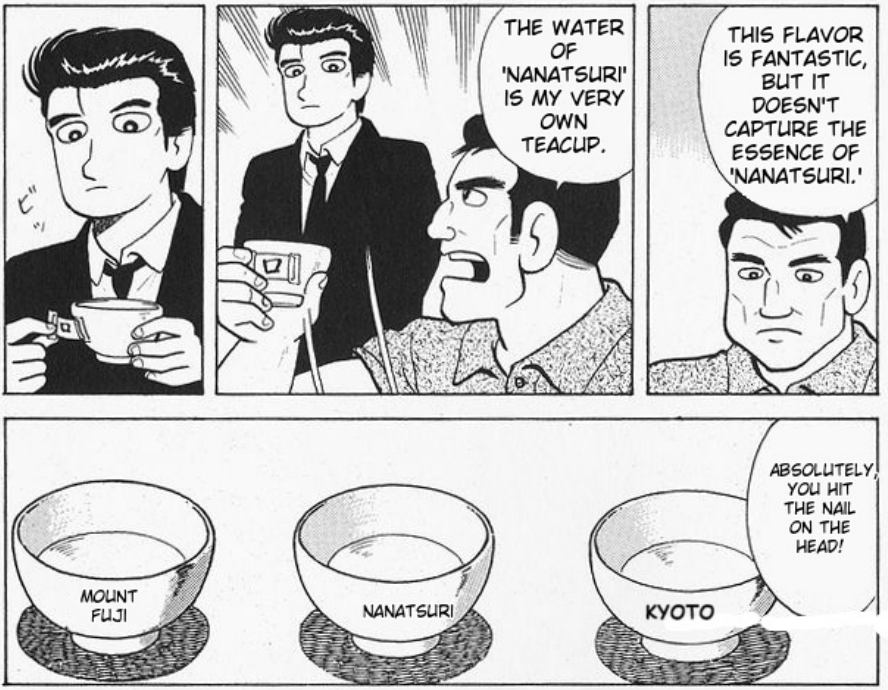
DELICIOUS!


TRULY EXQUISITE...
MMM, WHAT A FINE SAKE...
BROTHER...?
ONE MORE DRINK, PLEASE...

CARRYING THE FRAGRANCE OF FLOWERS, A MAGNIFICENT AROMA RISING UP, TICKLING MY NOSTRILS BEFORE DANCING AWAY...
AT THE SAME TIME, A REFRESHING SPRING BREEZE SWEEPS THROUGH...
THIS 'NANA-TSURI'... IT GENTLY SPREADS ACROSS MY TONGUE...
THE TASTE LINGERING ON MY TONGUE UNRAVELS SMOOTHLY, FADING AWAY WITH A DELIGHTFUL CRISPNESS...!

IT BEGINS TO FADE... IT STARTS TO DISAPPEAR...
AH, IN THAT FINAL MOMENT, WITH NO LINGERING REGRETS, THE AFTERTASTE VANISHES IN A FLASH...
SUCH PURITY...
FIRST, THIS WATER SHAPES A ROBUST FLAVOR PROFILE.
AS CLEAR AS CRYSTAL GLASS, IT'S A TRULY TRANSPARENT TASTE...
AND THE WATER IN MY TEA BOWL IS...
THE WATER IN MY TEA BOWL IS...
IT'S A MAGNIFICENT FLAVOR, YET IT CARRIES A DIFFERENT ESSENCE THAN THAT OF 'NANATSURI.'
20
SOFT AND PURE, DEVOID OF ANY IMPURITIES, ENVELOPING EVERY FLAVOR IN ITS EMBRACE...
THIS IS THE TASTE OF MORNING DEW THAT HAS SETTLED ON THE FRESH GRASS OF THE HIGHLANDS...
AND THE AFTERTASTE LINGERS LIKE A DELICATE WHISPER... BEAUTIFULLY TRAILING OFF INTO NOTHINGNESS...

DELICIOUS!


THE WATER OF 'NANATSURI' IS MY VERY OWN TEACUP.
THIS FLAVOR IS FANTASTIC, BUT IT DOESN'T CAPTURE THE ESSENCE OF 'NANATSURI.'
MOUNT FUJI
NANATSURI
KYOTO
ABSOLUTELY! YOU HIT THE NAIL ON THE HEAD!

I'D LOVE TO WORK FOR YOU!
IF I'M UNDER SUCH AN INCREDIBLE MASTER WHO UNDERSTANDS FLAVORS THIS WELL,

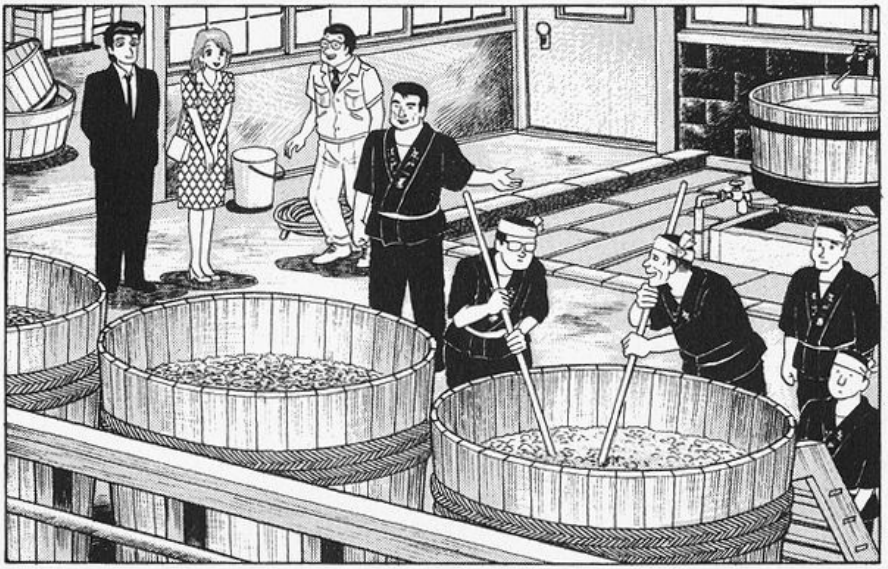
YAY, BIG BROTHER!
WHOA!
WOW, AMAZING...!

AH, KIYAMA-SAN!

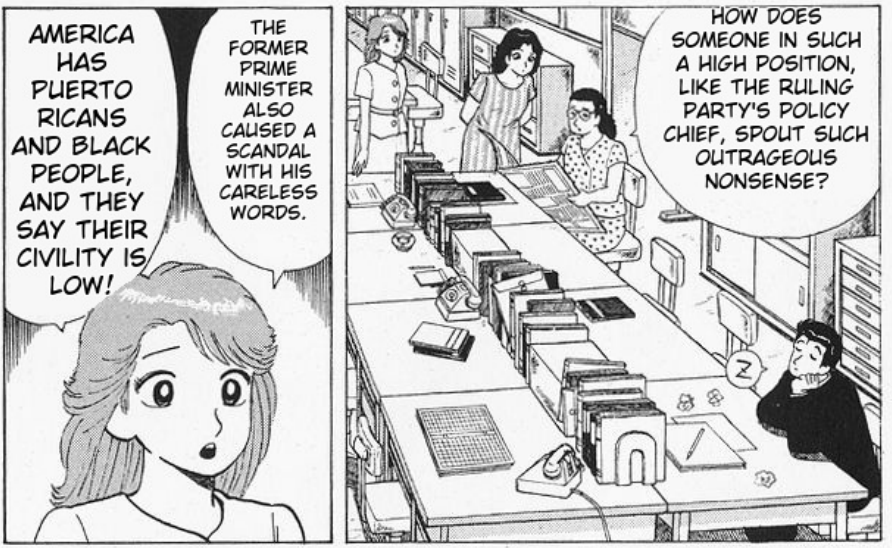
IT'S A BIT OF A CLUNKY NAME, THOUGH.
THIS 'EDO ICHIBAN' IS GOING TO BE AN INCREDIBLE BREW!
THAT'S FANTASTIC!

22

HMM, MAYBE I SHOULD CALL IT 'SAKURADA GATE NISHIKI' OR SOMETHING.



第3話
舌禍事件！



2

*TL NOTE: OH BOY... WELL, THE OBVIOUS DISCLAIMER HERE: I'M AN AMERICAN AND I'M MAKING THIS NOTE BEFORE SEEING THE REST OF THE CHAPTER. I JUST WANT TO NOTE THAT WHATEVER KARIYA'S VIEWS ON RACE AND POLITICS, THEY'RE NOT NECESSARILY A REFLECTION OF MY OWN AND WILL BE PRESENTED WITHOUT FURTHER COMMENT.

STILL, I ABSOLUTELY REFUSE TO BE PART OF THIS TONGUE-LASHING FIASCO!
MY EGO SWELLS AT THE SLIGHTEST TASTE OF SUCCESS, BUT MY CUP IS JUST TOO SMALL TO HOLD IT ALL.
JAPANESE PEOPLE REALLY DO HAVE A WAY OF BEING SO SMALL-MINDED, DON'T THEY?
しょぼん
OH DEAR... WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU, TOMII-SAN?
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カタ
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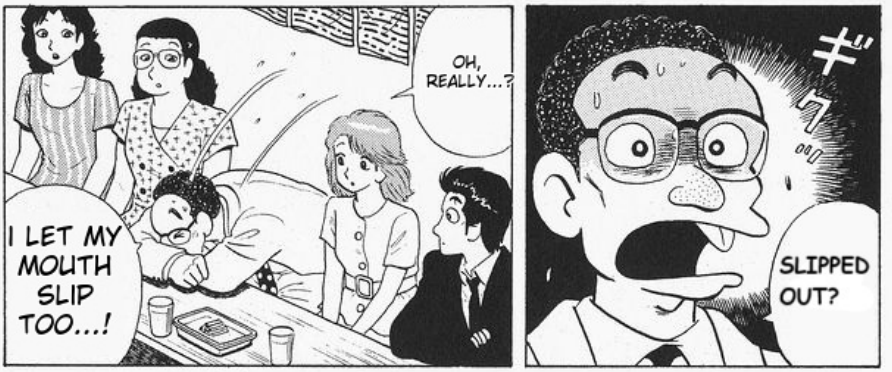
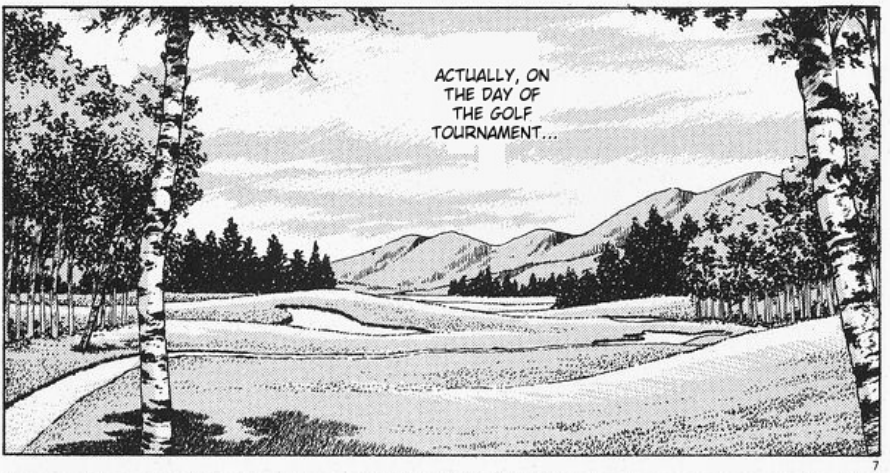
INSTEAD OF JUST SLAPPING DOWN YOUR RESIGNATION AND RUNNING AWAY, DON'T YOU THINK IT'S MORE RESPONSIBLE TO TRY AND RESOLVE THE SITUATION?
WELL, THIS TIME IT WAS INDEED YOUR BLUNDER, BUT...
UH... I SUPPOSE...
BOSS, ABOUT THIS...
YUI, YOU SAY...?
ペコ
TAKE A PAGE FROM YAMAOKA'S CAREFREE ATTITUDE!
DON'T BE SO QUICK TO ASSUME THE WORST!
HEY!!!
4
.....

WHY DID TANIMURA-SAN DRAG ME INTO THIS MESS?!
IT'S DEFINITELY RELEVANT TO ME.
WELL, YOU ALL DON'T REALLY NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THAT...
HONESTLY, YOU'RE THE LAZIEST MAN IN THE OFFICE!
I'M NOT AS LAZY AS YOU ARE!
I'M NO MORE LAZY THAN THE REST OF YOU!
IT'S OFTEN NECESSARY TO BE A CLUB MEMBER WHEN IT COMES TO PUBLIC INTERVIEWS RELATED TO CULTURE AND THE ARTS...
THE 'LITERARY PRESS CLUB' IS A GATHERING OF REPORTERS FROM THE CULTURAL AND ARTS SECTIONS OF VARIOUS NEWSPAPER COMPANIES.
I SHOULD PROBABLY HAVE A PROPER CHAT WITH EVERYONE ABOUT THIS...
THANK YOU ALL... FOR WORRYING ABOUT ME...
5
LAST SUNDAY, THERE WAS A GOLF TOURNAMENT FOR THE 'LITERARY PRESS CLUB'...

YOU SNAGGED THE VICTORY, DIDN'T YOU?
OH, I KNOW ALL ABOUT IT!
SO, SINCE THE CAPTAIN HAD OTHER COMMITMENTS ON THE DAY OF THE GOLF TOURNAMENT, I STEPPED UP TO COMPETE.
WINNING WAS SUCH A DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD...
I DID, BUT...
IF IT WERE TRUE, WE SHOULD BE BLASTING OUT SPECIAL EDITIONS ANNOUNCING OUR VICTORY, CAUSING QUITE THE COMMOTION...!
WELL, THAT'S NOT LIKE YOU AT ALL.
.....?
6
OH NO...
WE DIDN'T MEAN TO BE RUDE. IT JUST SLIPPED OUT...
ARE YOU GENUINELY CONCERNED FOR ME, OR JUST TEASING?
HEY, YOU GUYS!
THE SHOW-OFF ISN'T SAYING A WORD!
THERE MUST BE SOMETHING REALLY BIG GOING ON?!


I LET MY MOUTH SLIP TOO...!
OH, REALLY...?
SLIPPED OUT?


ACTUALLY, ON THE DAY OF THE GOLF TOURNAMENT...

7

THIS IS DEFINITELY A WIN!
HIDEZAWA-SAN, THE PUTT IS SO SHORT!
パチパチ
パチパチ
パチ

GETTING CAUGHT IN A BUNKER LIKE THAT...
I'LL BE HITTING THREE OR FOUR MORE SHOTS...
BUT LOOK! TOMII FROM THE EAST-WEST NEWS IS JUST A STROKE BEHIND!
JUST WAIT AND SEE.
HONESTLY, THAT IDIOT IS LUCKY THAT HE'S DONE THIS WELL!
HMM...
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おおーっ
...IT JUST SLIPPED RIGHT IN...!
コトン

9

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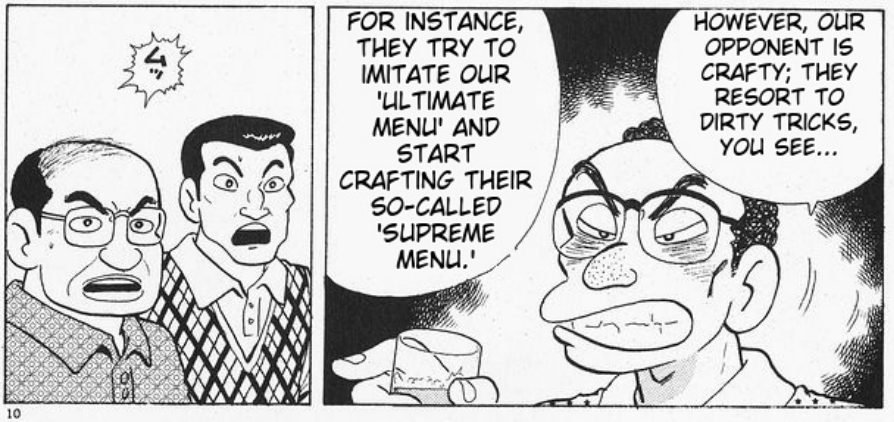
SORRY FOR SNAGGING THE VICTORY LIKE THAT, TEEHEE!
SUCH A MOMENT FOR THE PRESS!
HEHEHE!!

OH WOW!! I TRULY BELIEVED THAT THE HEAVENS STAND BY THE RIGHTEOUS!
ヒック
WHEN MY BALL TUMBLED AND PLOPPED RIGHT INTO THE CUP,

WELL, IF WE'RE TALKING SKILL, TODAY I'M ON PAR WITH HIS EXCELLENCY HIDEZAWA, BUT THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT OUR TOZAI NEWSPAPER REIGNS SUPREME!
グビ
I MEAN, WE'RE UP AGAINST THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF THE TEITO NEWSPAPER, WHO SNATCHED THE TOP CIRCULATION TITLE FROM US. HEH HEH HEH!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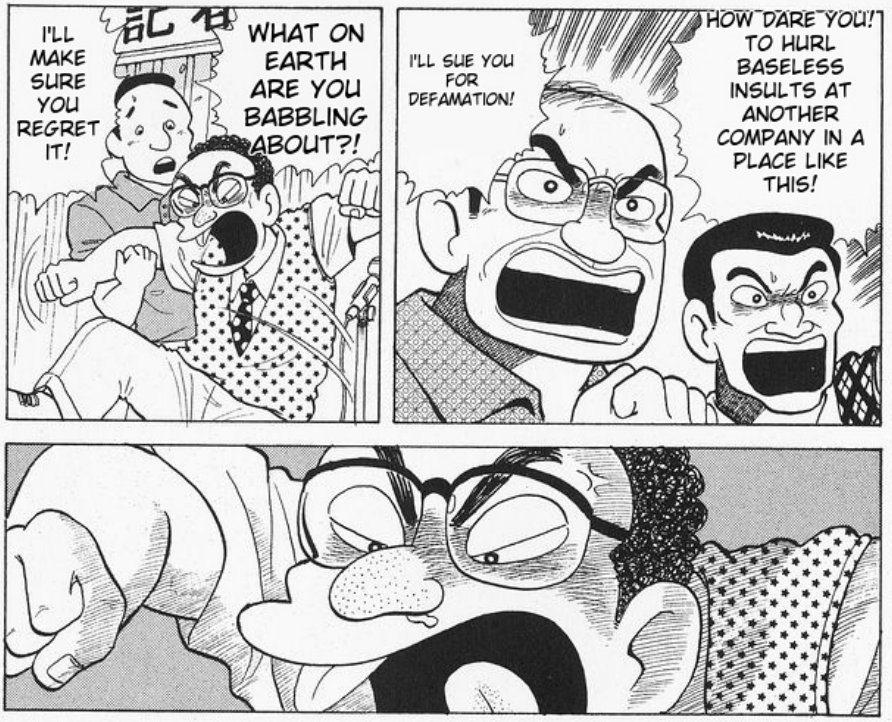
FOR INSTANCE, THEY TRY TO IMITATE OUR 'ULTIMATE MENU' AND START CRAFTING THEIR SO-CALLED 'SUPREME MENU.'
HOWEVER, OUR OPPONENT IS CRAFTY; THEY RESORT TO DIRTY TRICKS, YOU SEE...

10

JUSTICE WILL ALWAYS TRIUMPH IN THE END!
STILL, THE TEITO NEWSPAPER, WHICH BECAME NUMBER ONE IN CIRCULATION USING SUCH UNDERHANDED TACTICS, WON'T BE AROUND FOR LONG— JUST LIKE MY GOLF GAME TODAY PROVED!

IT'S A DISGRACE TO COPY ANOTHER COMPANY'S PLANS, UGH!


I'LL MAKE SURE YOU REGRET IT!
WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU BABBLING ABOUT?!
I'LL SUE YOU FOR DEFAMATION!
HOW DARE YOU! TO HURL BASELESS INSULTS AT ANOTHER COMPANY IN A PLACE LIKE THIS!

THEY WANT TO KICK TOZAI NEWS OUT OF THE CLUB FOR WHAT I DID.
THE TEITO NEWS IS SET TO DISCUSS THE UPCOMING MEETING OF THE 'LITERARY JOURNALISTS CLUB,'
OH NO! IF WE GET EXPELLED FROM THE CLUB, IT WOULD BE A DISASTER!
I SHOULDN'T HAVE SAID WHAT I DID...
...I SLIPPED UP BECAUSE I HAD A FEW TOO MANY DRINKS...!

.....
AND IT MAKES COVERING ART AND ACADEMIA A REAL HASSLE...
WHEN FAMOUS CULTURAL FIGURES COME FROM ABROAD, WE CAN'T EVEN GET INTO THE JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE,
JUST BECAUSE I GOT CARRIED AWAY AND SAID SOMETHING FOOLISH...!
IT'S ALL MY FAULT!
東西新聞社
12
BUT REALLY, THERE'S NO NEED FOR THE TEITO NEWS TO BE SO STIFF-NECKED, YOU KNOW...
THEY'RE PROBABLY JUST CLINGING TO THEIR PRIDE AS THE TOP-SELLING NEWSPAPER IN JAPAN.
THEY'RE PRETTY HARDENED IN THEIR STANCE AND WON'T ACCEPT OUR APOLOGY...
THIS IS HOPELESS...

AH, IS THAT MR. MIKAWA? HELLO, THIS IS YAMOKA FROM THE TOZAI NEWSPAPER.
HELLO, IS THIS THE WEEKLY TIME EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT?
BUT STILL, WHAT A MESS WE'VE GOTTEN OURSELVES INTO.
YAMAOKA...
WE MUST PUT A STOP TO IT.
YOU SEE, IT'S ABOUT THE SERIES YOU'VE BEEN RUNNING, 'THE ULTIMATE MENU' VERSUS 'THE SUPREME MENU'...

13

WHAT? YES... IT WOULD MEAN THE DISAPPEARANCE OF YOUR MAGAZINE'S POPULAR FEATURE...
I UNDERSTAND HOW IT WOULD BE A BLOW FOR YOU...
OUR COMPANY SIMPLY CANNOT ASSOCIATE WITH THE TEITO NEWSPAPER, YOU KNOW.
YES, EXACTLY... AND IF WE WERE EXPELLED FROM THE 'LITERARY JOURNALISTS CLUB', WELL...

ALRIGHT THEN, LET'S MAKE ONE REQUEST.
YES, SO LET'S DO THIS...
WELL, ON OUR END, WE REALLY DON'T WANT TO ESCALATE THINGS ANY FURTHER IN SUCH AN IMMATURE WAY...
AH... I SEE WHAT YOU MEAN...
HUH? YOU WANT US TO MEDIATE?
I'VE GOT TO SAY, I'M IMPRESSED WITH YOU, YAMAOKA!
MMM, IF WE APPROACH WEEKLY TIME, MAYBE TEITO WILL ACTUALLY LISTEN TO US GIVEN OUR HISTORY.
HAVING WEEKLY TIME STEP IN AS MEDIATORS IS A BRILLIANT IDEA!
BUT DO YOU THINK TEITO NEWS WILL FORGIVE US...?
STILL...
14
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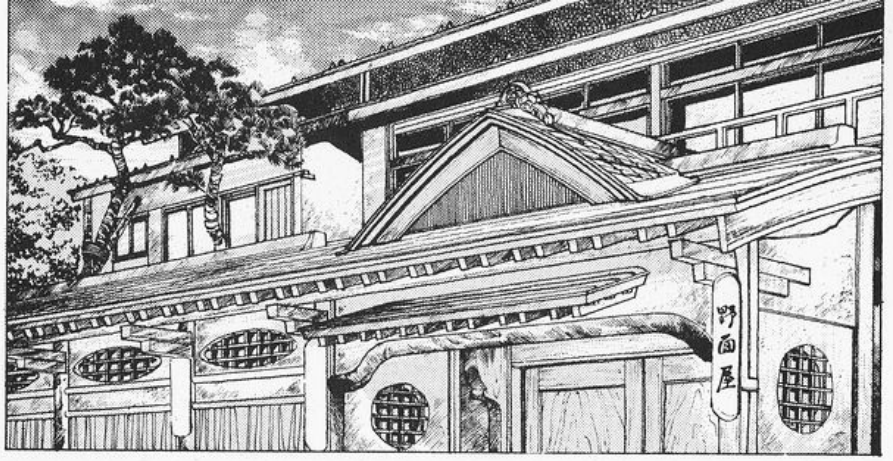
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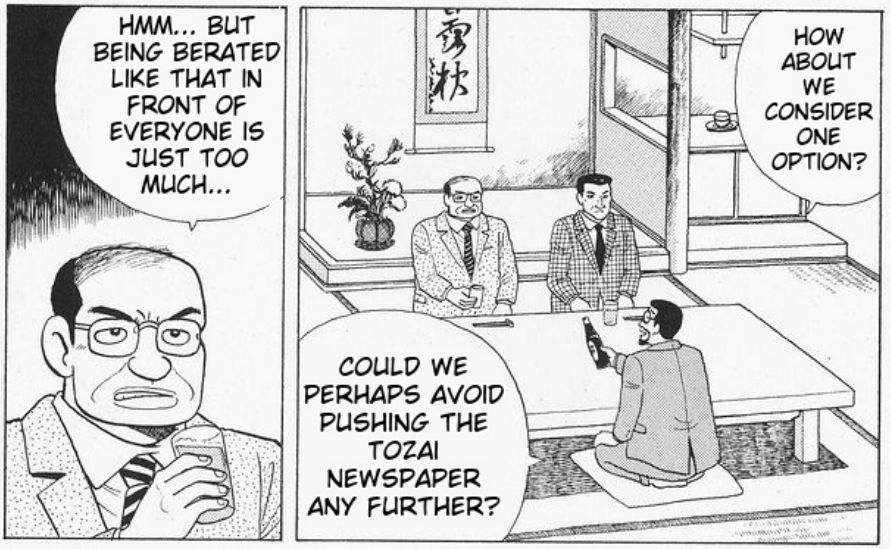
HMM... BUT BEING BERATED LIKE THAT IN FRONT OF EVERYONE IS JUST TOO MUCH...
HOW ABOUT WE CONSIDER ONE OPTION?
COULD WE PERHAPS AVOID PUSHING THE TOZAI NEWSPAPER ANY FURTHER?

15

I SEE...

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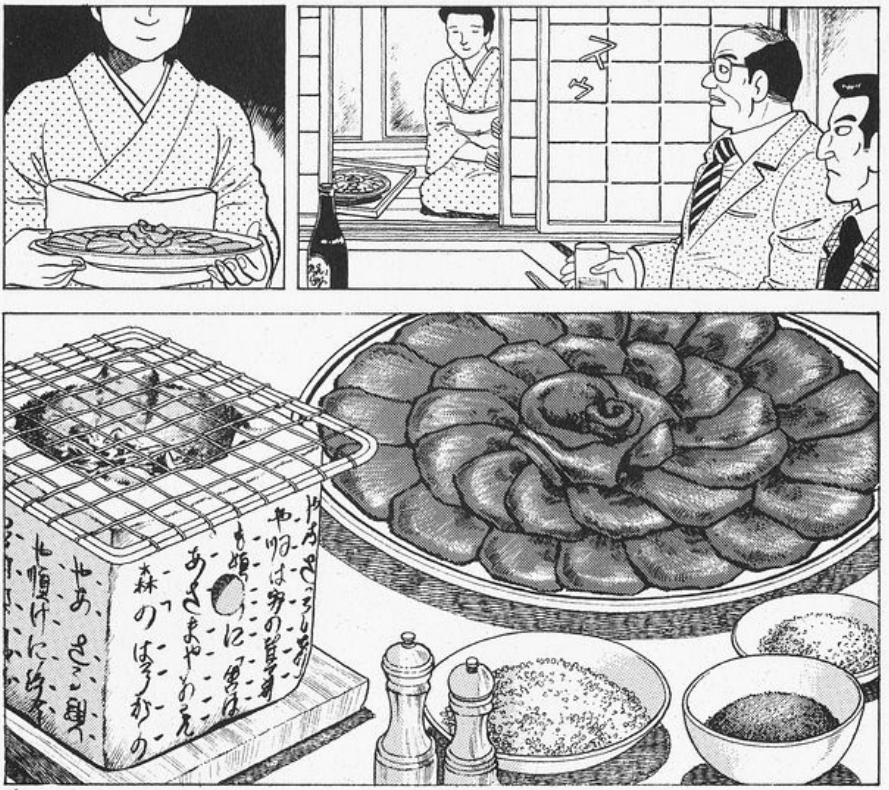
SIMPLY SAYING 'I'M SORRY' WON'T CUT IT, WILL IT?
WELL, WE CAN'T JUST KEEP OUR FISTS RAISED FOREVER, BUT...



16

WITH MERE FOOD...
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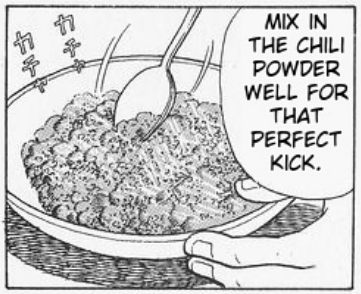
OH NO...
COULD YOU EMBRACE THE HEARTFELT OFFERINGS OF THE TOZAI NEWSPAPER WITH THIS FEAST?
WHAT WE HAVE PREPARED HERE IS A LAVISH SPREAD FROM THE TOZAI NEWSPAPER.
WAIT A SECOND...
CAN SUCH AN ORDINARY DISH TRULY CONVEY HEARTFELT SINCERITY?!
AND ISN'T THIS A SLICE OF BEEF TONGUE?
THERE MUST BE SOMETHING MORE TO IT...
WITH TWO REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE 'ULTIMATE MENU' HERE,
THEN LET US TAKE A SEAT AT THE TABLE AS WELL...
INDEED, THIS IS THE ULTIMATE GRILLED BEEF TONGUE.
PLEASE EAT IT AS I DO, GIVE IT A TRY.
OH REALLY?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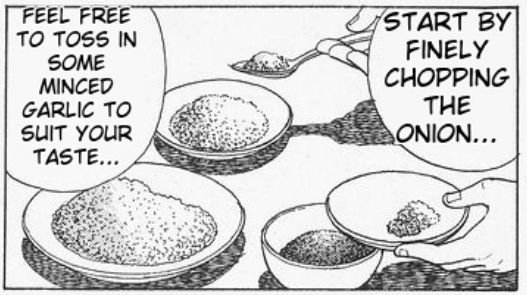
MIX IN THE CHILI POWDER WELL FOR THAT PERFECT KICK.


FEEL FREE TO TOSS IN SOME MINCED GARLIC TO SUIT YOUR TASTE...
START BY FINELY CHOPPING THE ONION...

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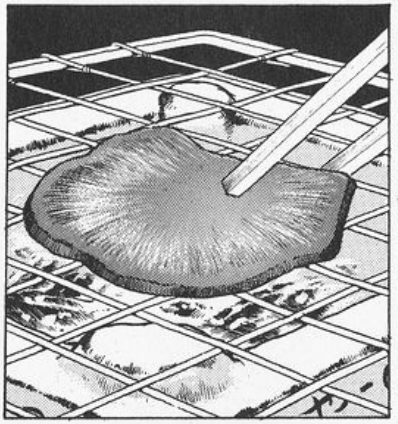
SPRINKLE SALT AND PEPPER GENEROUSLY OVER THE BEEF TONGUE...



MAKE SURE TO USE KOREAN CHILI POWDER;
THE JAPANESE STUFF IS WAY TOO SPICY AND LACKS SWEETNESS.
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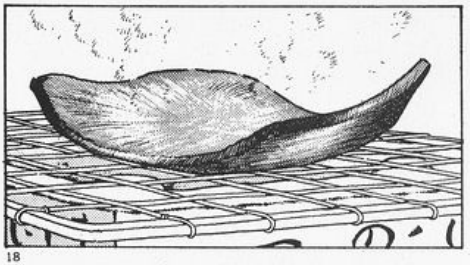

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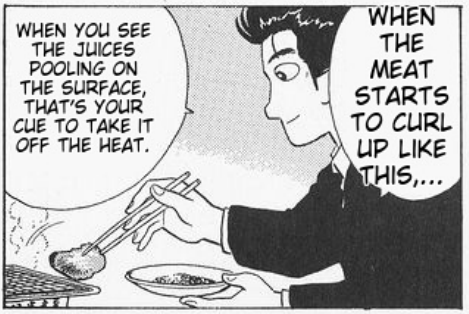

WHEN THE MEAT STARTS TO CURL UP LIKE THIS,...
WHEN YOU SEE THE JUICES POOLING ON THE SURFACE, THAT'S YOUR CUE TO TAKE IT OFF THE HEAT.

IF YOU SALT AND PEPPER TOO EARLY, THE JUICES WILL ESCAPE, LEAVING YOU WITH A FLAVORLESS HUNK.
JUST BEFORE YOU THROW IT ON THE GRILL, THAT'S WHEN YOU WANT TO SEASON IT FOR THE FIRST TIME.

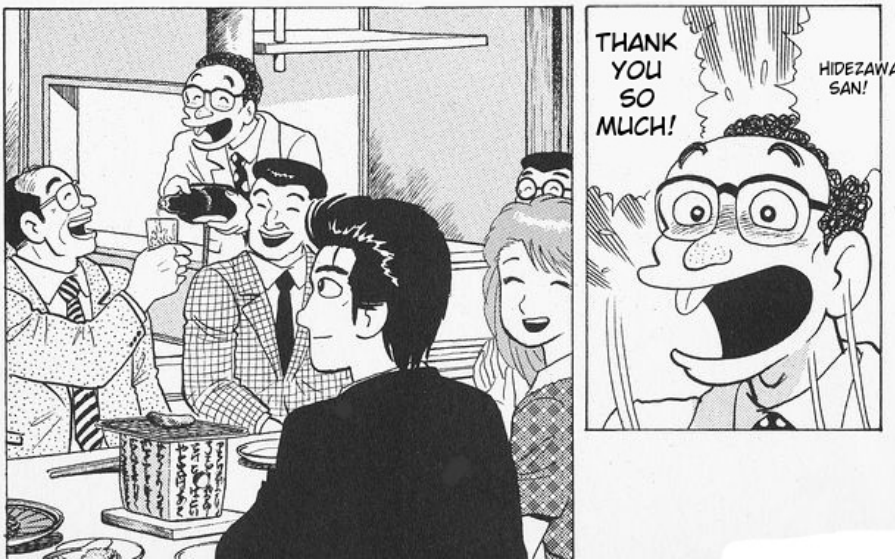
DELICIOUS!

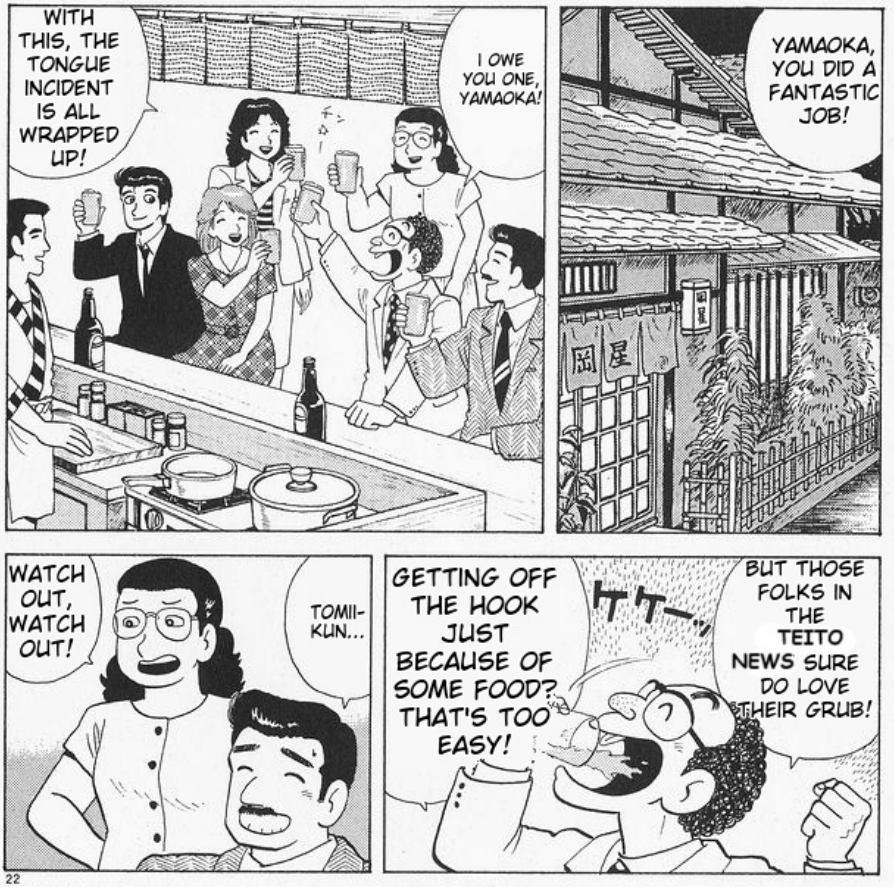
I'M GOING TO WRAP IT UP AND ENJOY!
NOW, LET'S PILE ON THAT GARLIC AND CHILI WE MIXED EARLIER,
IT'S STILL A BIT RAW?!
ARE WE REALLY ONLY GRILLING ONE SIDE?
YEP, THAT'S THE WAY TO DO IT.
IT'S PERFECTLY CHARRED ON THE OUTSIDE, BUT WHEN YOU BITE IN, THE JUICES BURST FORTH...!
OH WOW, THIS IS AMAZING!
19
PLUS, ONLY ONE SIDE IS GRILLED, SO ALL THAT JUICY GOODNESS IS PRESERVED FOR US TO SAVOR!
THE SWEETNESS OF THE TONGUE COMBINES WITH THE CARAMELIZED ONIONS TO ELEVATE THE FLAVOR TO NEW HEIGHTS!
THE GAMINESS OF THE TONGUE IS COMPLETELY MASKED BY THE GARLIC AND PEPPER,

I SEE! EATING IT THIS WAY MAKES IT A WHOLE DIFFERENT EXPERIENCE FROM THE TYPICAL TONGUE SALT AT A YAKINIKU PLACE!
THERE ARE SOME PLACES THAT SERVE MEAT TOPPED WITH CONDIMENTS, BUT WHEN YOU GRILL IT, THOSE TOPPINGS CAN FALL OFF OR BURN, RUINING THE EXPERIENCE OF THE ORIGINAL TASTE.
YOU SEE! AT A YAKINIKU RESTAURANT, THEY GRILL BOTH SIDES OF THE TONGUE, WASTING THE JUICY ESSENCE AND MISSING OUT ON THE TRUE FLAVOR IT HAS TO OFFER!
BUT TELL ME, WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TONGUE FOR TODAY'S DISH?
ADD SALT AND PEPPER JUST BEFORE GRILLING, AND ROLL THE CONDIMENTS TO EAT.
ONLY ONE SIDE OF THE MEAT IS GRILLED, AND NOT TOO MUCH AT THAT.
ARE YOU FOLLOWING ME?
WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT JUST BEING CAREFUL ABOUT THESE THINGS COULD ELEVATE THE FLAVOR SO MUCH!
20
THE IDEA IS TO SAVOR THE TONGUE ITSELF.
THE DISCORD AROSE FROM A SLIP OF THE TONGUE,
ESSENTIALLY A TONGUE DISASTER...
THE ROOT OF THE TROUBLE THIS TIME IS THAT OUR VICE PRESIDENT'S TONGUE SLIPPED TOO MUCH.

DELICIOUS!

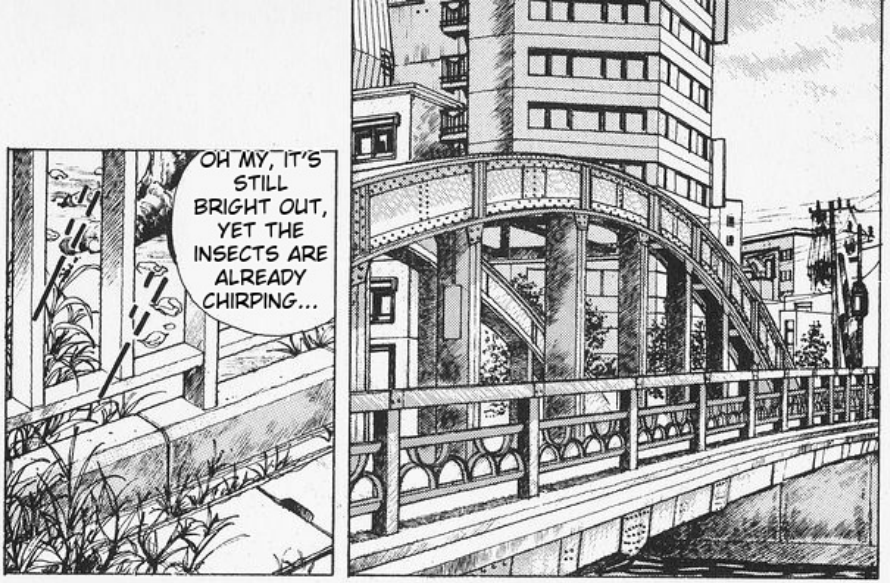
PERHAPS I SHOULD JUST INDULGE IN EATING MY OWN TONGUE...
AH, I SEE! BRILLIANT!
LET'S REFRAIN FROM DEMANDING YOUR EXPULSION FROM THE CLUB.
BUT ALAS, AFTER DEVOURING MY OWN TONGUE LIKE THIS, ALL WORDS OF PROTEST HAVE VANISHED INTO THIN AIR.
I SIMPLY CAN'T FORGIVE THAT OUTRAGEOUS COMMENT FROM TOMII-KUN...
NO MATTER HOW MANY APOLOGIES ARE THROWN MY WAY,


THANK YOU SO MUCH!
HIDEZAWA-SAN!


WITH THIS, THE TONGUE INCIDENT IS ALL WRAPPED UP!
I OWE YOU ONE, YAMAOKA!
YAMAOKA, YOU DID A FANTASTIC JOB!
岡屋
WATCH OUT, WATCH OUT!
TOMII-KUN...
GETTING OFF THE HOOK JUST BECAUSE OF SOME FOOD? THAT'S TOO EASY!
ｹﾀｹﾀｰ
BUT THOSE FOLKS IN THE TEITO NEWS SURE DO LOVE THEIR GRUB!
22
PLEASE DON'T ROAST MY TONGUE AND EAT IT...
OOPS!
...
...
I GUESS I NEED TO GET THAT VICE DIRECTOR'S TONGUE OUT OF THE WAY, HUH!

Episode 4 |

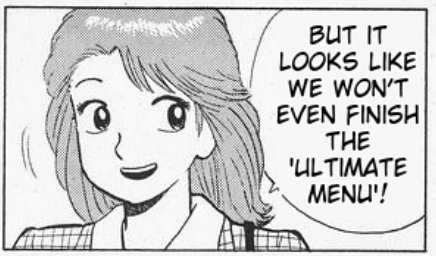
Korean style okonomiyaki


OH MY, IT'S STILL BRIGHT OUT, YET THE INSECTS ARE ALREADY CHIRPING...

AHH, THE CHILDREN'S PARK...
THIS YEAR IS DRAWING TO A CLOSE, ISN'T IT?
IS IT REALLY ALREADY AUTUMN...?

2

OH MY!


BUT IT LOOKS LIKE WE WON'T EVEN FINISH THE 'ULTIMATE MENU'!

THAT WASN'T POETIC AT ALL!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE RECITING A POEM INSPIRED BY THE AUTUMN!

STOP, STOP IT ALREADY!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON, BUT FOR NOW, JUST STOP IT!
DON'T JUST STAND THERE, JUMP IN AND BREAK IT UP!
WHAT THE HELL, OLD MAN! STAY OUT OF THIS!
HEY! GANGING UP ON ONE PERSON IS JUST PLAIN COWARDLY!
FINE. LET'S GO...
.....

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HEY, ARE YOU OKAY? ARE YOU HURT?
MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS!

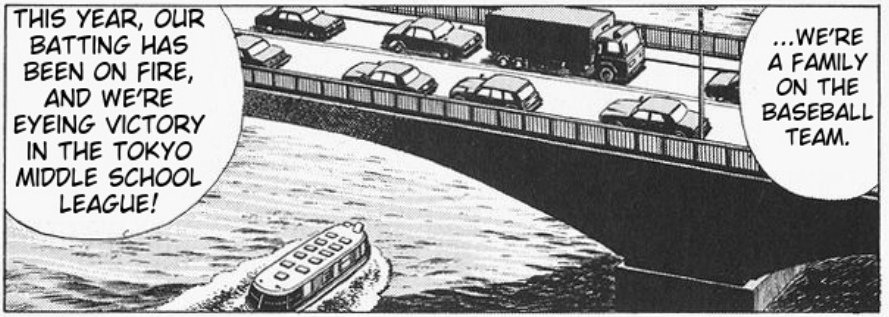
HOW RUDE! HE WAS JUST TRYING TO HELP YOU OUT!
-UGH!

THAT'S JUST RIDICULOUS!
THAT'S WHY PLAYING MEDIATOR IS SUCH A WASTE OF TIME!

4

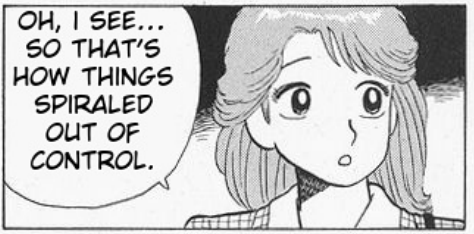
I WAS JUST SO WORKED UP EARLIER... I'M KEN YAMASHITA.
NO, I CAME TO APOLOGIZE...
ハァ

YOU WERE LYING IN WAIT, WEREN'T YOU?!
YOU, FROM EARLIER!


THIS YEAR, OUR BATTING HAS BEEN ON FIRE, AND WE'RE EYEING VICTORY IN THE TOKYO MIDDLE SCHOOL LEAGUE!
...WE'RE A FAMILY ON THE BASEBALL TEAM.

I BEGGED HIM NOT TO QUIT, BUT HE'S DETERMINED TO WALK AWAY...!
AND YET, THAT GUY SUDDENLY DECIDES TO LEAVE THE TEAM...!

TAKASHI IS OUR ACE, YOU KNOW! HE THROWS LIKE LIGHTNING!
WHETHER WE CAN WIN THE CHAMPIONSHIP HINGES ON TAKASHI!


OH, I SEE... SO THAT'S HOW THINGS SPIRALED OUT OF CONTROL.

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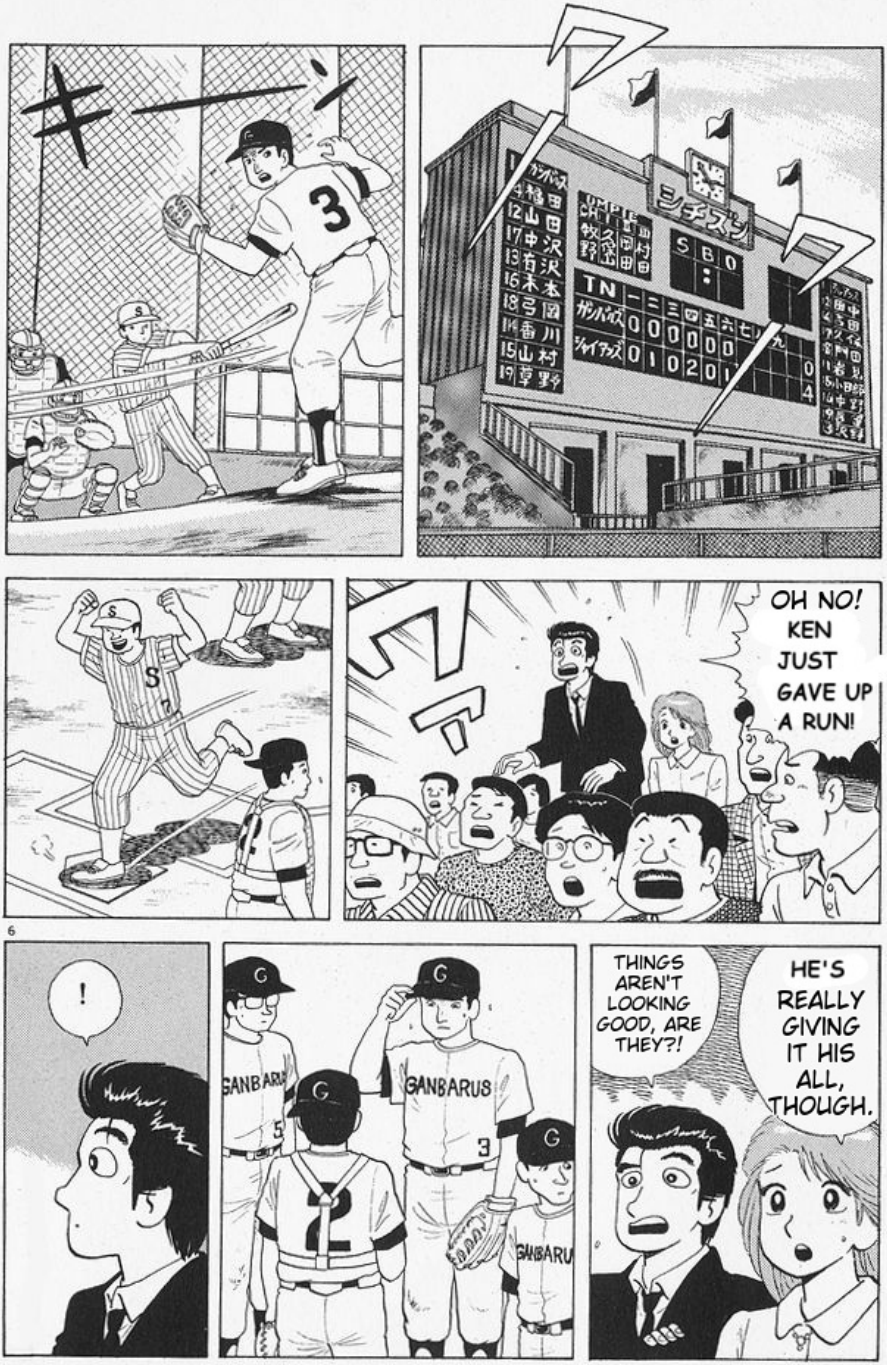
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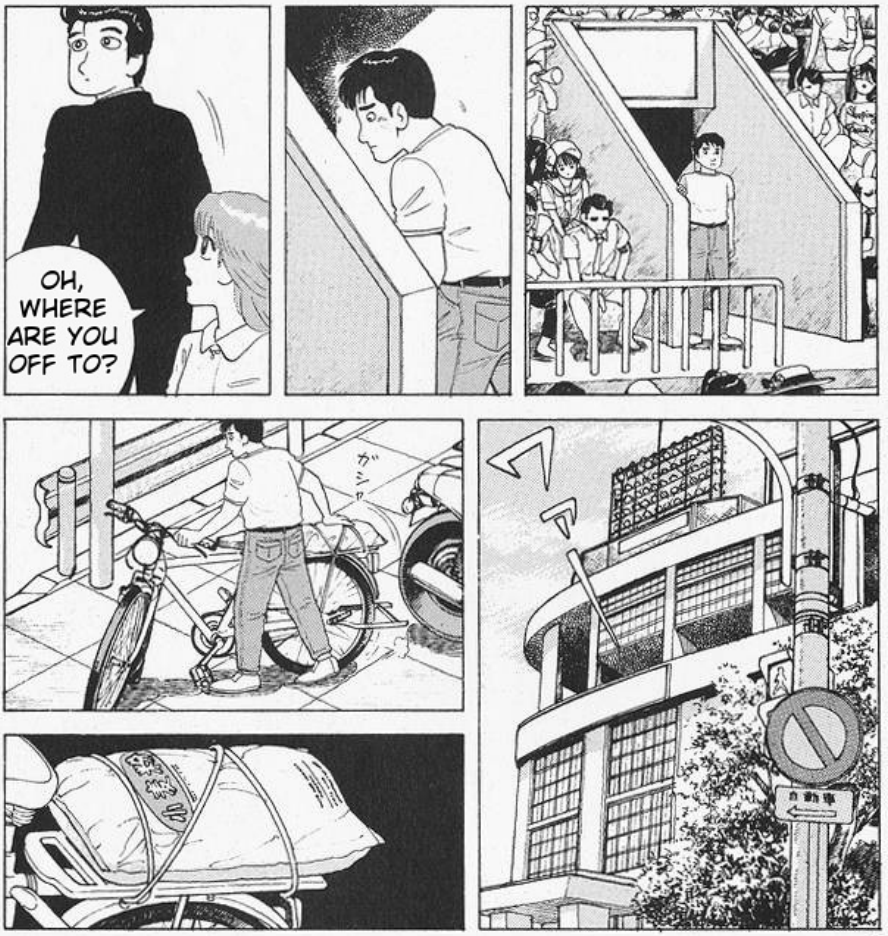
OH NO! KEN JUST GAVE UP A RUN!
!
GANBARUS
THINGS AREN'T LOOKING GOOD, ARE THEY?!
HE'S REALLY GIVING IT HIS ALL, THOUGH.



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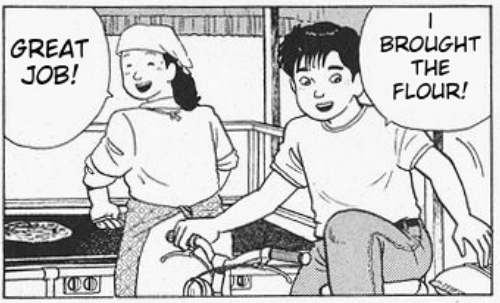
GREAT JOB!
I BROUGHT THE FLOUR!

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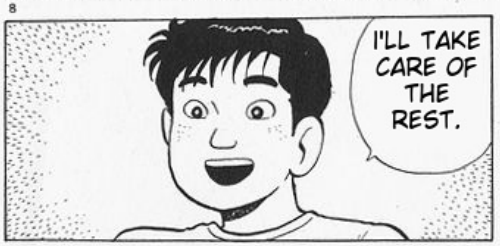
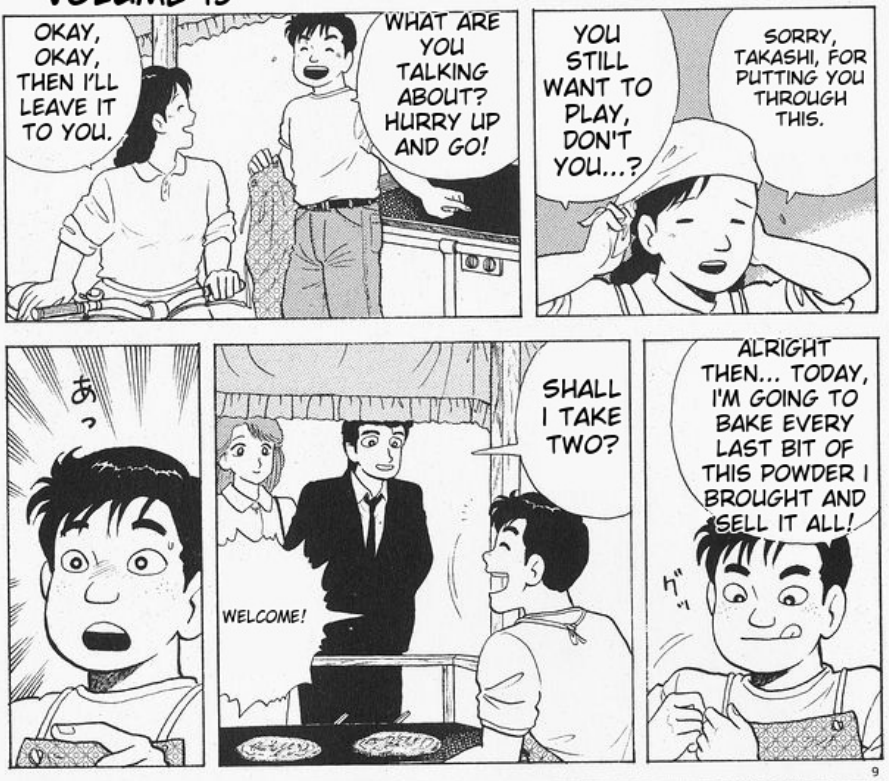

I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE REST.


OKAY, OKAY, THEN I'LL LEAVE IT TO YOU.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? HURRY UP AND GO!
YOU STILL WANT TO PLAY, DON'T YOU...?
SORRY, TAKASHI, FOR PUTTING YOU THROUGH THIS.
あっ
WELCOME!
SHALL I TAKE TWO?
ALRIGHT THEN... TODAY, I'M GOING TO BAKE EVERY LAST BIT OF THIS POWDER I BROUGHT AND SELL IT ALL!
ｶﾞｯ
9
I SAW YOU AT THE STADIUM.
SO, YOU DIDN'T QUIT BASEBALL OUT OF DISLIKE, HUH?
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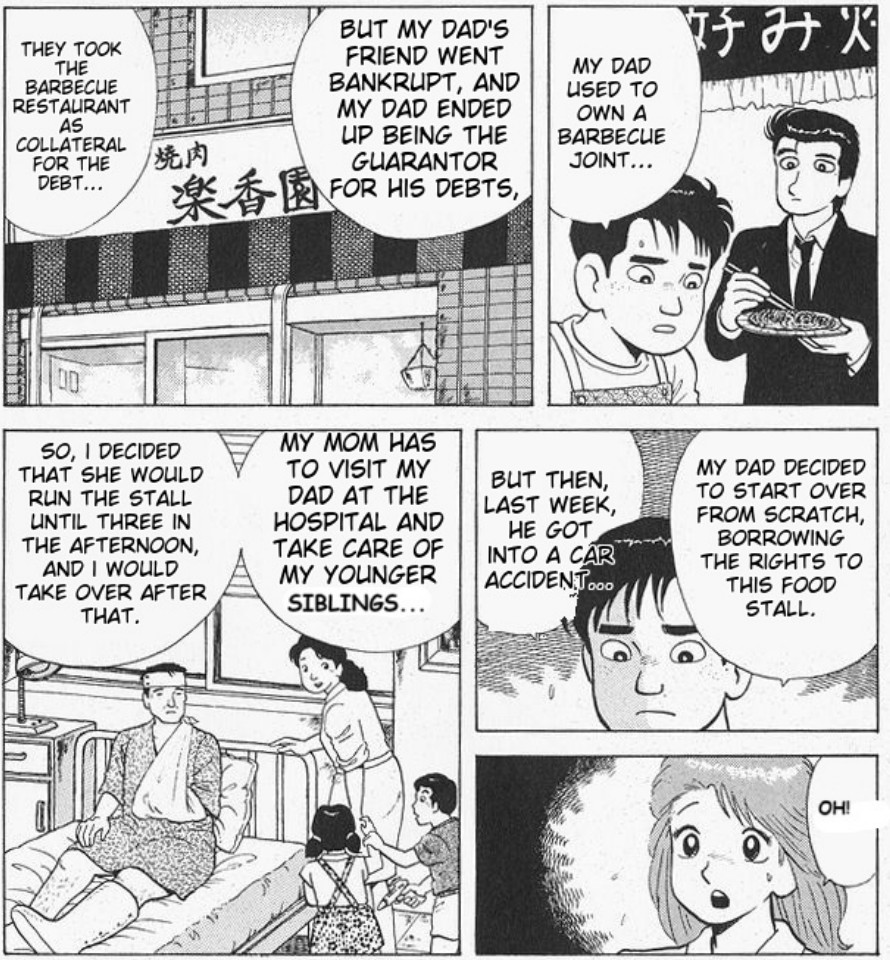
焼き お
SINCE THAT DAY IN THE PARK, I'VE TALKED TO YAMASHITA...
ACTUALLY, I WENT TO WATCH A GAME TODAY TOO.


THEY TOOK THE BARBECUE RESTAURANT AS COLLATERAL FOR THE DEBT...
BUT MY DAD'S FRIEND WENT BANKRUPT, AND MY DAD ENDED UP BEING THE GUARANTOR FOR HIS DEBTS,
焼肉
楽香園
MY DAD USED TO OWN A BARBECUE JOINT...
SO, I DECIDED THAT SHE WOULD RUN THE STALL UNTIL THREE IN THE AFTERNOON, AND I WOULD TAKE OVER AFTER THAT.
MY MOM HAS TO VISIT MY DAD AT THE HOSPITAL AND TAKE CARE OF MY YOUNGER SIBLINGS...
BUT THEN, LAST WEEK, HE GOT INTO A CAR ACCIDENT...
MY DAD DECIDED TO START OVER FROM SCRATCH, BORROWING THE RIGHTS TO THIS FOOD STALL.
OH!
10
BECAUSE...
WHY DIDN'T YOU SHARE SUCH A HEAVY BURDEN WITH YOUR TEAM?
I WANT TO PLAY BASEBALL, AND I FEEL BAD FOR YOU GUYS, BUT...
RIGHT NOW, BASEBALL IS THE LEAST OF MY WORRIES.

IT SEEMS LIKE THIS PLACE ISN'T DOING SO WELL, WHILE THE OTHER STALLS ARE BUSTLING WITH LIFE...
THIS OKONOMIYAKI DOESN'T REALLY STAND OUT, DOES IT?
THEY WOULD JUST WORRY AND BE UNABLE TO HELP.
BY THE WAY,
IS THIS STALL EVEN MAKING A PROFIT?
お好み焼き
ONE BITE AND YOU'LL CRAVE ANOTHER, IT'S THAT DELICIOUS——!!
HOW ABOUT TRYING TOKYO LAND'S SIGNATURE OKONOMIYAKI——!
11
ARE YOU STILL IN MIDDLE SCHOOL? WHAT HAPPENED TO THE PERSON IN CHARGE OF THIS STALL?
WE'RE THE ONES MANAGING THE AMUSEMENT PARK, BUT,
WAIT...!

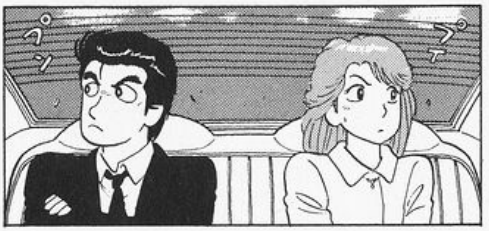
TH-THAT'S JUST...!!
THAT'S JUST...!!
I'LL REVOKE YOUR STREET VENDOR PERMIT!
A MIDDLE SCHOOLER RUNNING A SHOP IS OUTRAGEOUS!
WHAT?!
I HOLD A CHEF'S LICENSE.
I'M SOMEONE HIRED BY TAKASHI'S PARENTS; I'M THE ONE IN CHARGE, AND TAKASHI IS OUR PROMOTER.
12
.....
IN THAT CASE, YOU NEED TO FILE THE PROPER PAPERWORK.
OH REALLY?
YES, I'LL MAKE SURE TO SUBMIT IT PROPERLY BY TOMORROW.

好み

TH-THANK YOU SO MUCH!

WELL, YOU MANAGED TO BLUFF THEM TODAY, BUT,
WHAT ABOUT TOMORROW?

IS THERE REALLY SOME OTHER METHOD OUT THERE?
SO, WHAT DO YOU EXPECT ME TO DO ABOUT IT?

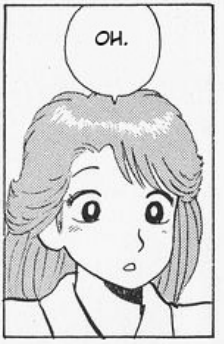


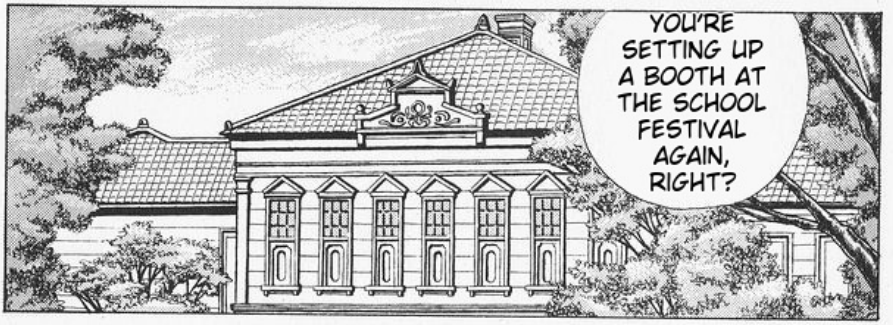
YOU'VE BEEN SKIPPING WORK TO COME HERE EVERY DAY!
WAIT, ARE YOU SERIOUS?!

13

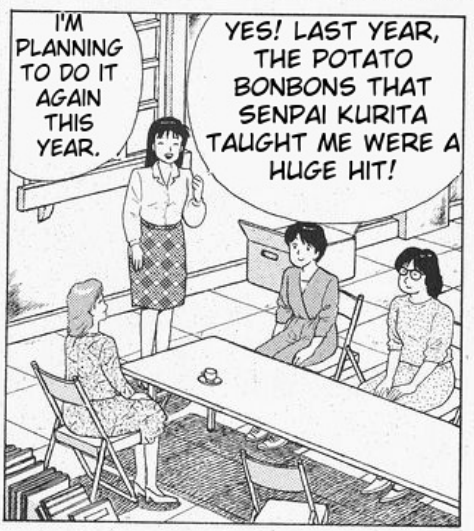
HUH...?

I HAVE AN IDEA THAT MIGHT WORK!
HEY, YAMAOKA!


OH.


YOU'RE SETTING UP A BOOTH AT THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL AGAIN, RIGHT?

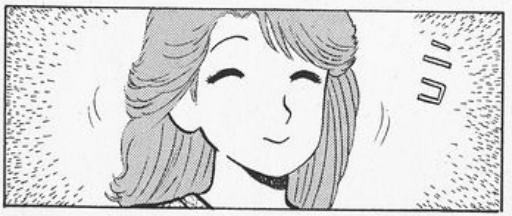
I WANT TO EARN FUNDS FOR THE ASIA-AFRICA REFUGEE RELIEF MOVEMENT WITH A STALL.


I'M PLANNING TO DO IT AGAIN THIS YEAR.
YES! LAST YEAR, THE POTATO BONBONS THAT SENPAI KURITA TAUGHT ME WERE A HUGE HIT!

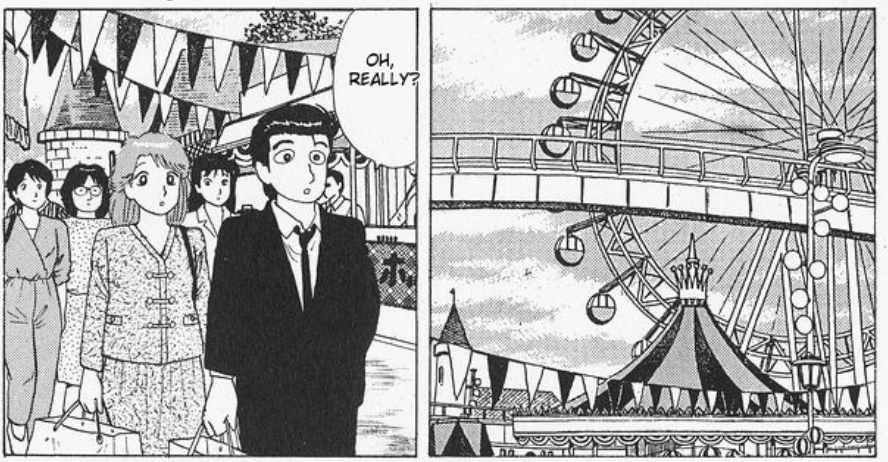
SO, I CAME HERE TO DISCUSS SOMETHING WITH YOU...

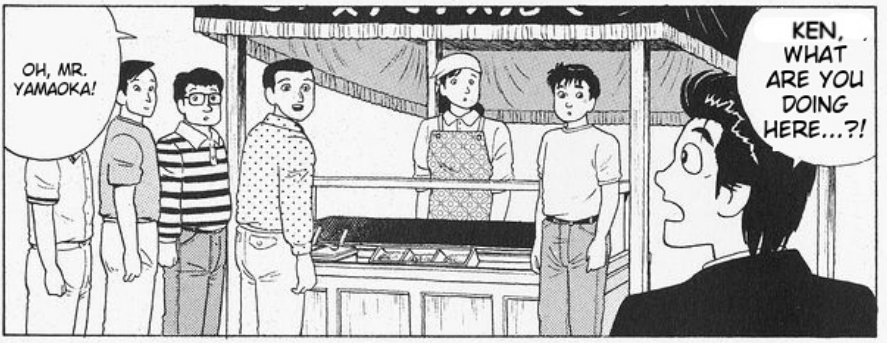
PLEASE TEACH ME!
IS THERE REALLY SUCH A THING?

14



HOW ABOUT TRYING OUT A MORE PROFITABLE FOOD STALL?
BESIDES POTATO BONBONS,

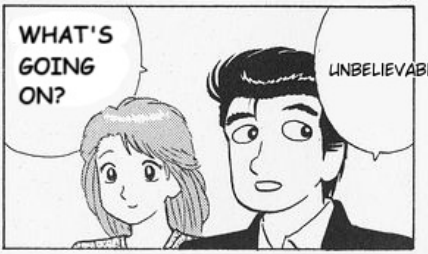

OH, REALLY?


OH, MR. YAMAOKA!
KEN, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE...?!

WHY TAKASHI DECIDED TO QUIT BASEBALL...
WE JUST FOUND OUT YESTERDAY.
SO WE CAME TO APOLOGIZE.

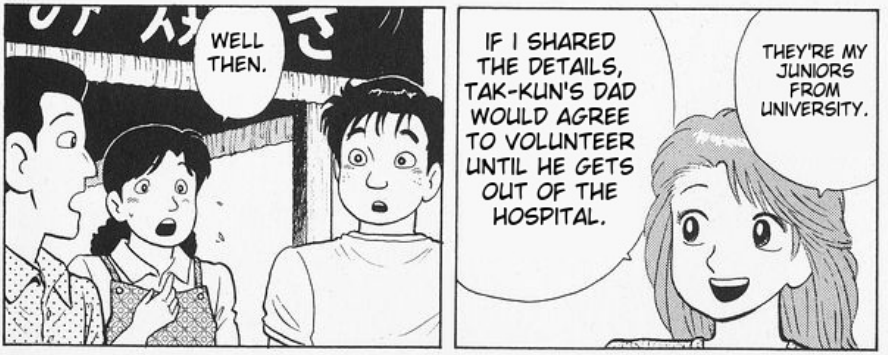
TAKASHI, ARE THESE FRIENDS OF YOURS, TOO?
OH, HELLO!

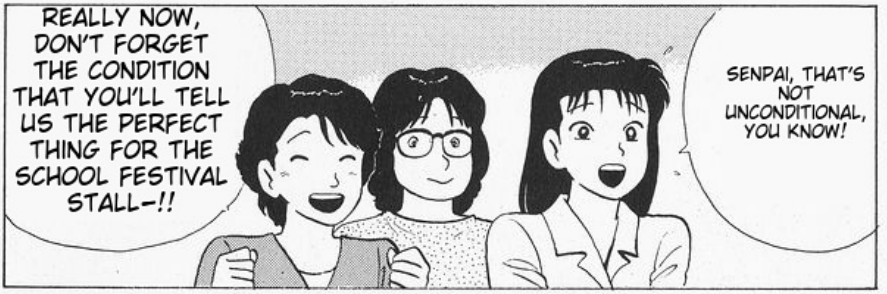
15


WHAT'S GOING ON?
UNBELIEVABLE!

WE REALLY NEED TAK ON OUR SIDE.
THAT WAY, HE CAN STILL JOIN THE MATCHES AND PRACTICE, RIGHT?
WE'LL TAKE TURNS COMING TO HELP IN TAK'S PLACE.
AND THEN KEN AND THE OTHERS SAID THEY WOULD LEND US A HAND...
LOOK, WE HAVE SUCH A GREAT TEAM OF HELPERS HERE!
DON'T WORRY, TAK-KUN AND KEN-KUN, LET THE ADULTS HANDLE THE WORK.
HUH?
I FIGURED KEN AND THE OTHERS WOULD DEFINITELY SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
I DIDN'T EXPLAIN THE SITUATION BECAUSE,
TAK... YOU HAVE SOME REALLY GOOD FRIENDS.

16


WELL THEN.
IF I SHARED THE DETAILS, TAK-KUN'S DAD WOULD AGREE TO VOLUNTEER UNTIL HE GETS OUT OF THE HOSPITAL.
THEY'RE MY JUNIORS FROM UNIVERSITY.

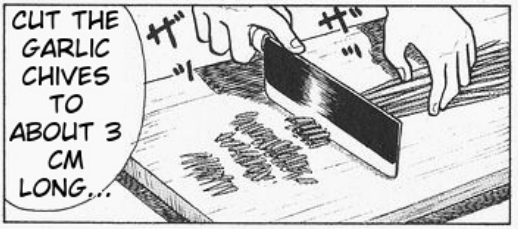

REALLY NOW, DON'T FORGET THE CONDITION THAT YOU'LL TELL US THE PERFECT THING FOR THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL STALL-!!
SENPAI, THAT'S NOT UNCONDITIONAL, YOU KNOW!

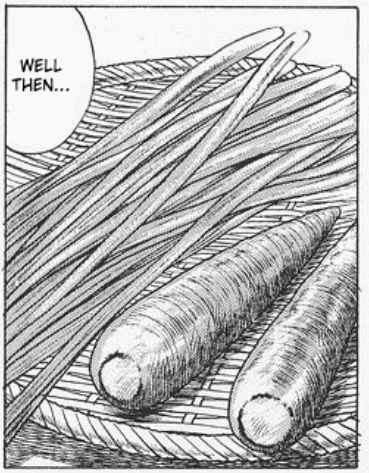
お好みソバ

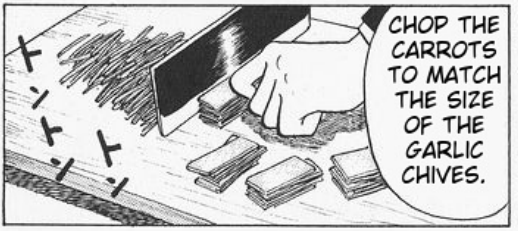
ALRIGHT, IT'S YOUR TURN, YAMAOKA-SAN!
MY, MY, THOSE SCHEMING UNDERCLASSMEN!

IF IT'S ABOUT IMPRESSING THE COLLEGE GIRLS, LEAVE IT TO ME!

17

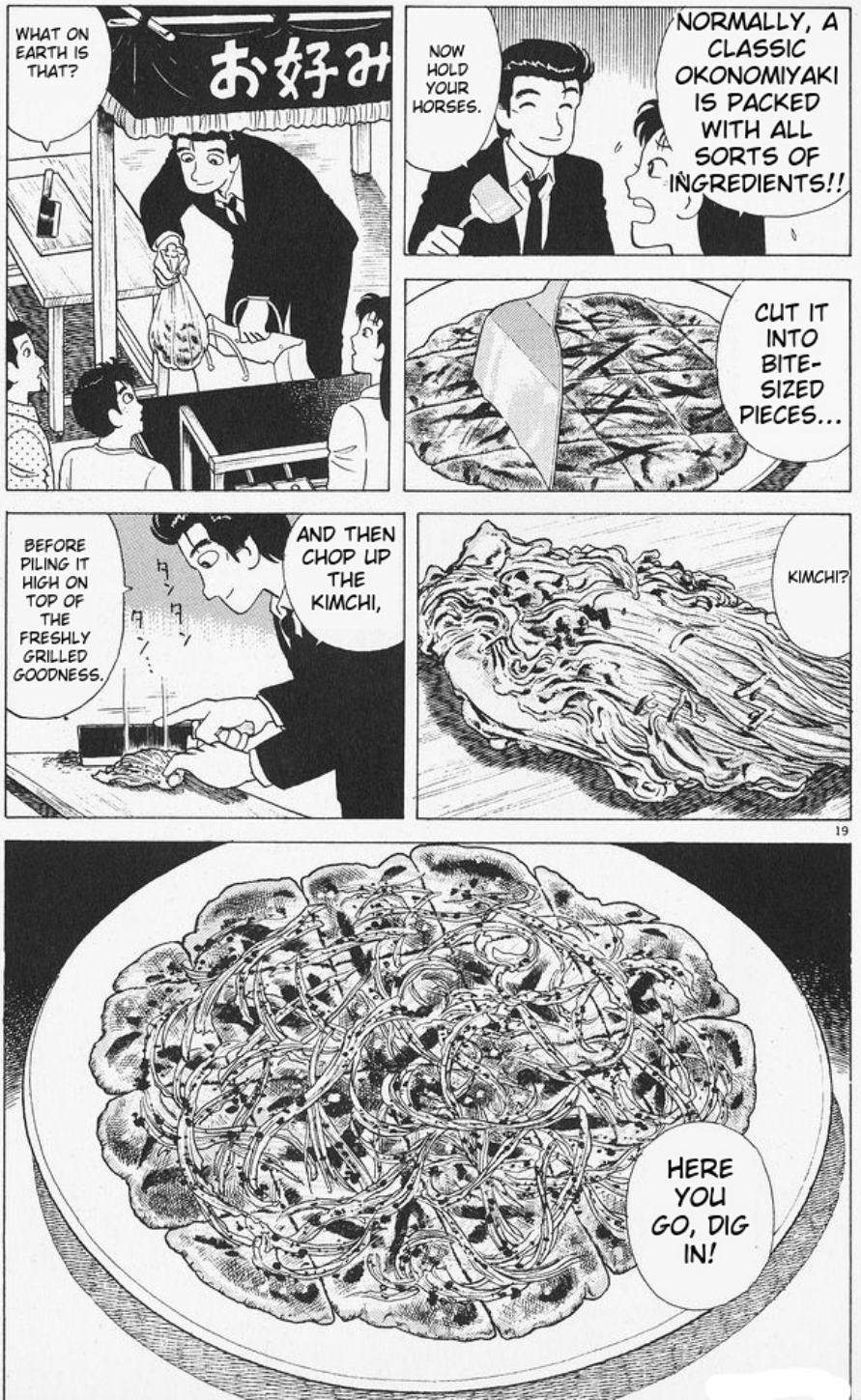

CUT THE GARLIC CHIVES TO ABOUT 3 CM LONG...

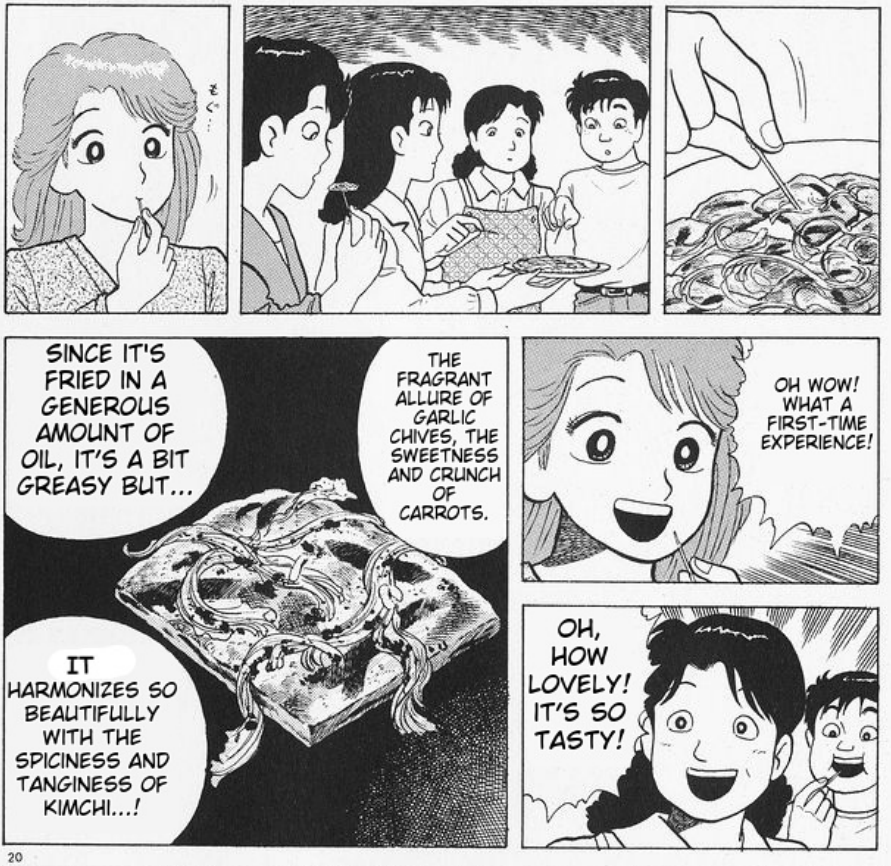

WELL THEN...


CHOP THE CARROTS TO MATCH THE SIZE OF THE GARLIC CHIVES.

I'LL SPREAD IT THIN AND COOK IT UP.
ジュー!
MIX THIS INTO THE FLOUR DISSOLVED IN WATER...
IT WON'T STICK WHEN WE FLIP IT OVER.
IF YOU DRIZZLE SOME OIL ON THE SURFACE, THEN...
ALRIGHT, IT'S READY!
NOW WE'LL GRILL IT UNTIL BOTH SIDES ARE GOLDEN BROWN...
ジュー!
WHAT A DELIGHTFUL AROMA!
IS IT REALLY JUST CHIVES AND CARROTS INSIDE?!
WHAT?! IS THIS REALLY ALL THERE IS TO IT?!

18


WHAT ON EARTH IS THAT?
お好み
NOW HOLD YOUR HORSES.
NORMALLY, A CLASSIC OKONOMIYAKI IS PACKED WITH ALL SORTS OF INGREDIENTS!!
CUT IT INTO BITE-SIZED PIECES...
BEFORE PILING IT HIGH ON TOP OF THE FRESHLY GRILLED GOODNESS.
AND THEN CHOP UP THE KIMCHI,
KIMCHI?
HERE YOU GO, DIG IN!


もぐ…
SINCE IT'S FRIED IN A GENEROUS AMOUNT OF OIL, IT'S A BIT GREASY BUT...
THE FRAGRANT ALLURE OF GARLIC CHIVES, THE SWEETNESS AND CRUNCH OF CARROTS.
IT HARMONIZES SO BEAUTIFULLY WITH THE SPICINESS AND TANGINESS OF KIMCHI...!
OH WOW! WHAT A FIRST-TIME EXPERIENCE!
OH, HOW LOVELY! IT'S SO TASTY!

20

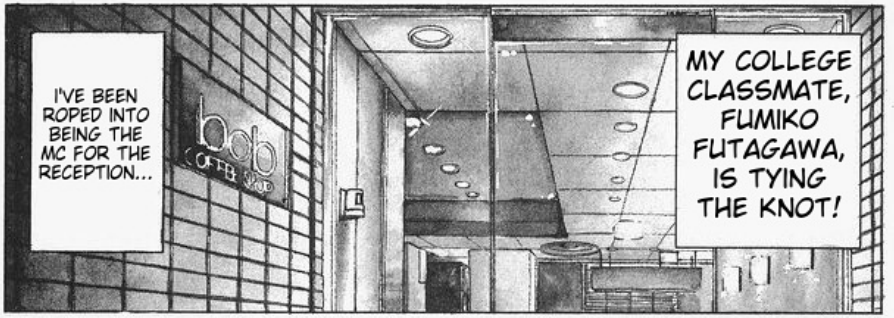
THERE ARE ALL SORTS OF CHIJIMI OUT THERE.
CHIJIMI!
THE SQUID PANCAKE MIXED WITH RAW SQUID AND EGGS IS DELICIOUS TOO.
WHAT DO YOU CALL THIS DISH?
THEY CALL IT CHIJIMI.
KOREAN-STYLE SAVORY PANCAKES.

SHALL WE GIVE IT A TASTE?
OOH, THAT SMELLS DELICIOUS!
HERE, WE'LL HONE OUR SKILLS IN MAKING CHIJIMI AND RAKE IN THE BUCKS AT THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL!
WOO, THIS IS SO EXCITING! WITH THIS, WE'RE BOUND TO HIT THE JACKPOT!
THANK YOU SO MUCH!
I CAN'T EVEN EXPRESS HOW GRATEFUL I AM...
ALRIGHT! LET THE SAVORY PANCAKE COOKING LESSON BEGIN!
GOOD LUCK WITH THAT!
TAK-KUN, KEN-KUN, IF WE WIN EVERY MATCH FROM NOW ON, WE CAN STILL SNAG THE CHAMPIONSHIP, RIGHT?
OKAY!

YES! I'LL GIVE IT MY ALL!

PIRATES
GANBARUS
GANBARUS
GANBARUS

第5話
食は三代？
〈前編〉


I'VE BEEN ROPED INTO BEING THE MC FOR THE RECEPTION...
bob
MY COLLEGE CLASSMATE, FUMIKO FUTAGAWA, IS TYING THE KNOT!

JUST LEAVE IT TO HIM; HE'LL TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING.
DON'T WORRY, KURITA-KUN. OUR FRIEND TAYAMA-SAN WILL BE CO-HOSTING!

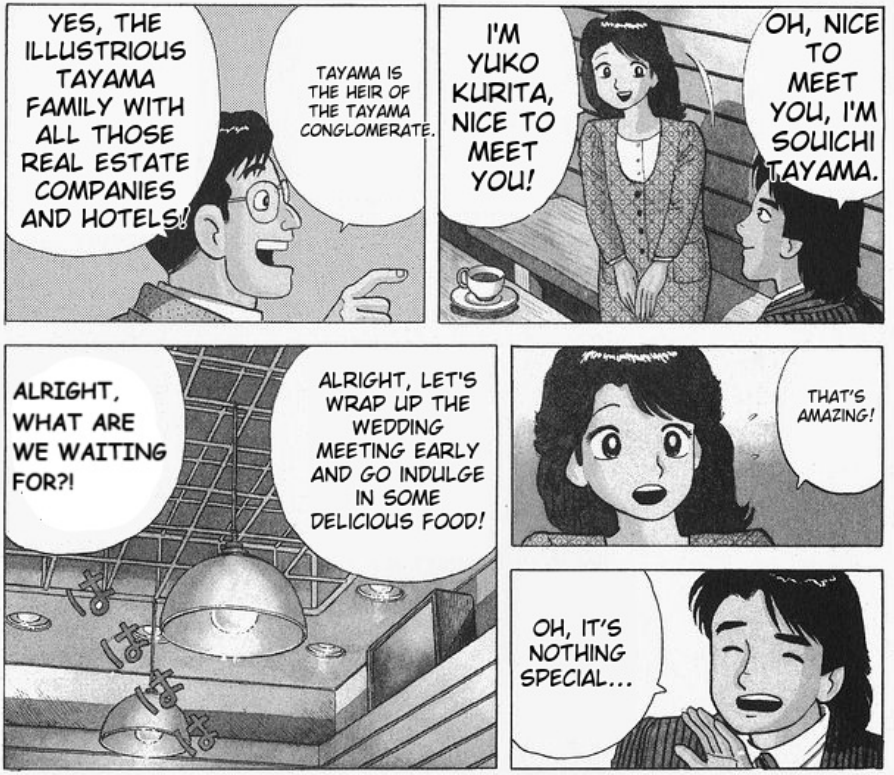
BUT DO YOU REALLY THINK I CAN HANDLE BEING THE MC FOR A WEDDING?

HEY, OVER HERE!

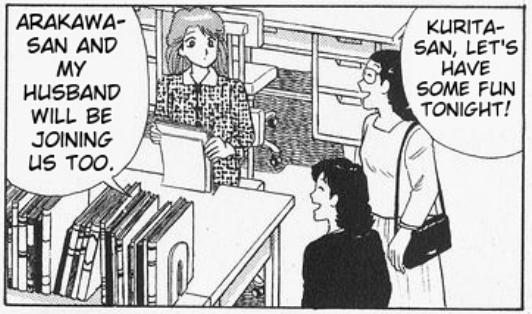
2

HEY, SORRY I'M LATE!

THIS COULD GET WILD!
TAYAMA-SAN MAY BE A BIT OF A JOKER, BUT HE'S GOT THE SKILLS TO BACK IT UP, SO WATCH OUT, YUKO!
WOW!


YES, THE ILLUSTRIOUS TAYAMA FAMILY WITH ALL THOSE REAL ESTATE COMPANIES AND HOTELS!
TAYAMA IS THE HEIR OF THE TAYAMA CONGLOMERATE.
I'M YUKO KURITA, NICE TO MEET YOU!
OH, NICE TO MEET YOU, I'M SOUICHI TAYAMA.
ALRIGHT, WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?!
ALRIGHT, LET'S WRAP UP THE WEDDING MEETING EARLY AND GO INDULGE IN SOME DELICIOUS FOOD!
THAT'S AMAZING!
OH, IT'S NOTHING SPECIAL...
3
NO WAY! TAYAMA'S A TOTAL PLAYBOY! HE'S NOT THINKING ABOUT MARRIAGE AT ALL!
IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU SETTLED DOWN, TAYAMA.
CHARTREUSE

I'M NOT THE GUY YOU THINK I AM!
HEY! DON'T SAY WEIRD THINGS LIKE THAT!
THAT'S NOT TRUE, IF YOU JUST MEET SOMEONE WONDERFUL...
OR SOMEONE WILL STEAL YOUR HEART!
CAREFUL NOW, CAREFUL.
COULD IT BE THAT YOU'RE TOUGHER THAN YOU LOOK...?
HMM... IT'S SURPRISING HOW SERIOUSLY YOU'RE GETTING UPSET...
4
THANKS TO TAYANA-SAN, WE WERE ABLE TO SUCCESSFULLY HOST THE WEDDING RECEPTION FOR FUMIKO AND ASHINO-SAN...


ARAKAWA-SAN AND MY HUSBAND WILL BE JOINING US TOO.
KURITA-SAN, LET'S HAVE SOME FUN TONIGHT!

東西新聞社

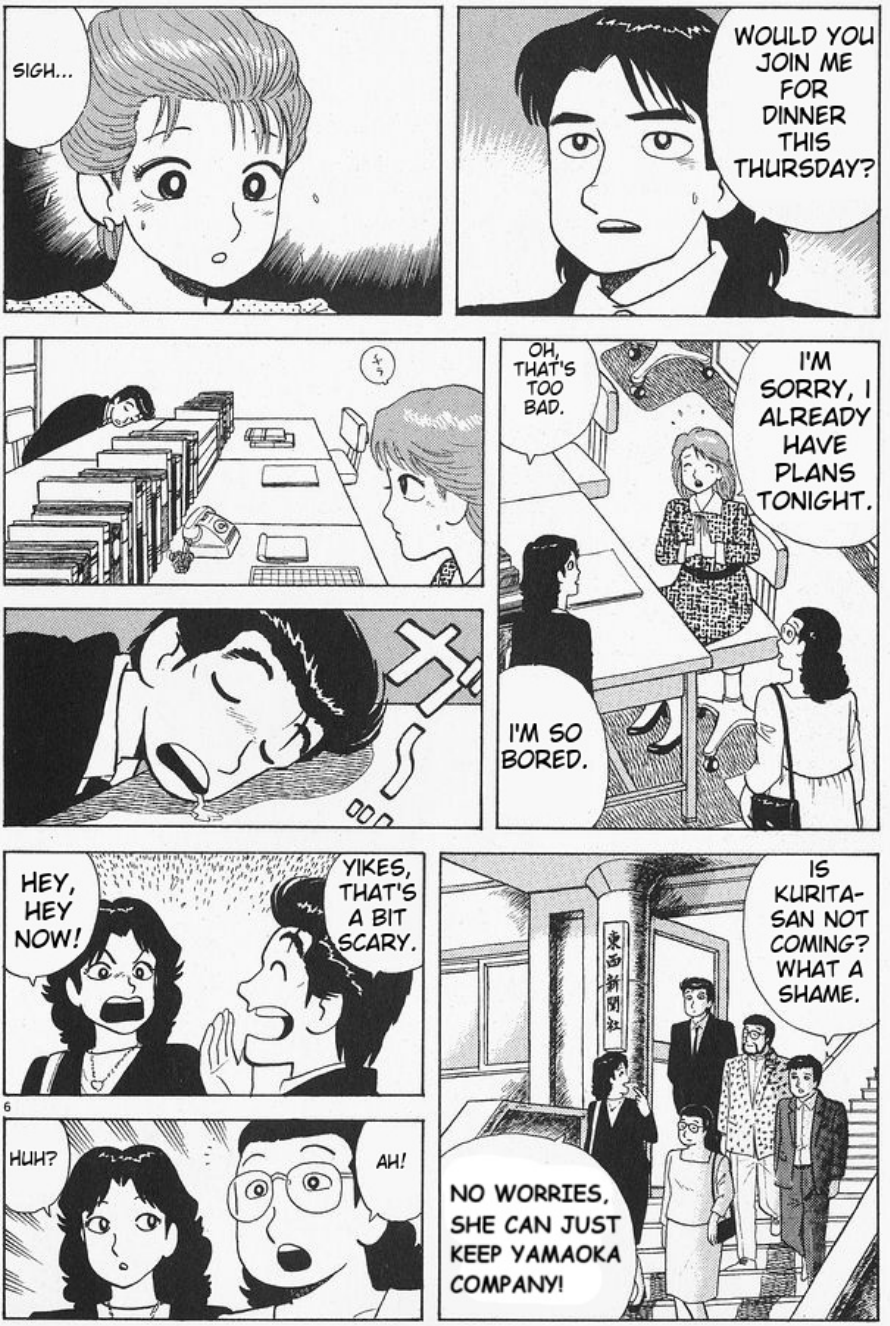
HUH, TONIGHT...?

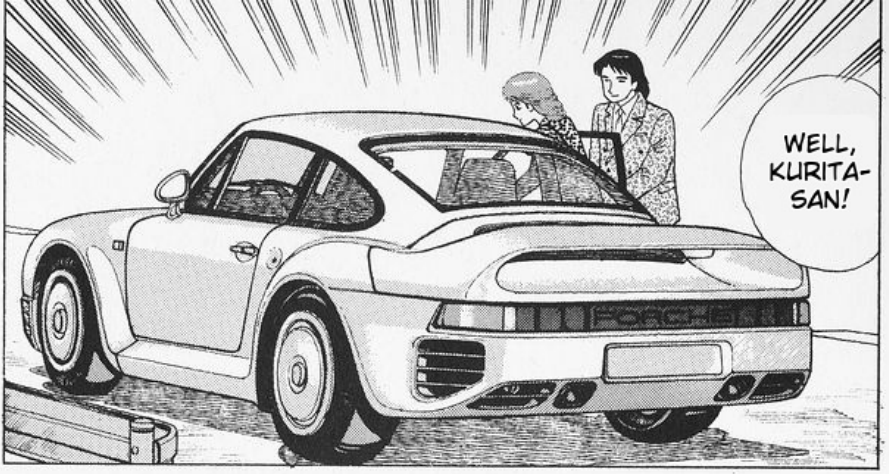
HUH?
YOU'RE PROBABLY EXHAUSTED TODAY; LET ME DRIVE YOU HOME.

ASHINO AND FUMIKO ARE MISUNDERSTANDING ME.
YUKO, I'M NOT SOME PLAYBOY, YOU KNOW!

NO, IT'S FINE, I'LL TAKE THE TRAIN HOME...

5


SIGH...
WOULD YOU JOIN ME FOR DINNER THIS THURSDAY?
I'M SORRY, I ALREADY HAVE PLANS TONIGHT.
OH, THAT'S TOO BAD.
I'M SO BORED.
HEY, HEY NOW!
YIKES, THAT'S A BIT SCARY.
6
HUH?
AH!
IS KURITA-SAN NOT COMING? WHAT A SHAME.
NO WORRIES, SHE CAN JUST KEEP YAMAOKA COMPANY!

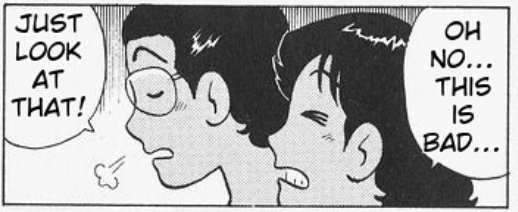

WELL, KURITA-SAN!

HE'S INCREDIBLY HANDSOME!
FORGET ABOUT THE CAR! WHO'S THE GUY?!

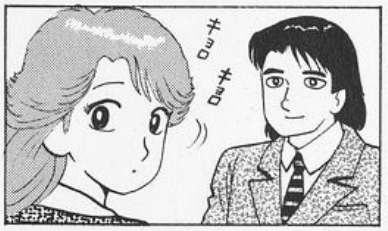
WHAT AN AMAZING CAR!!

7

I DON'T EVEN KNOW THAT PERSON!
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME FOR?!


JUST LOOK AT THAT!
OH NO... THIS IS BAD...

THIS HOTEL IS RUN BY MY FATHER'S COMPANY.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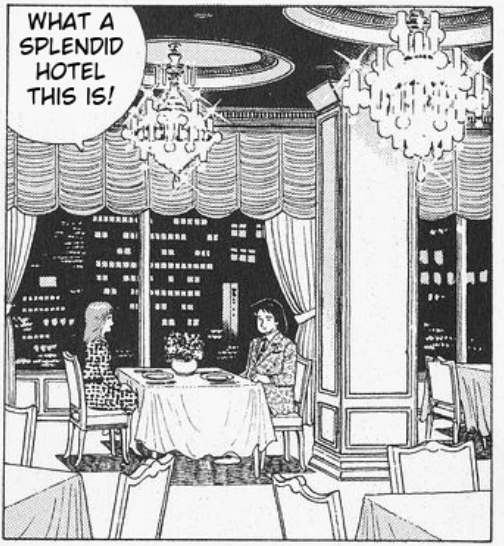
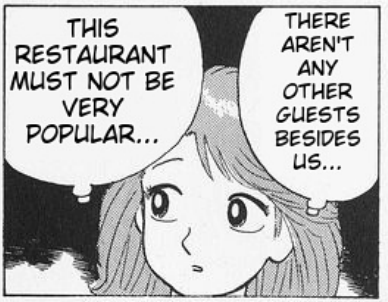
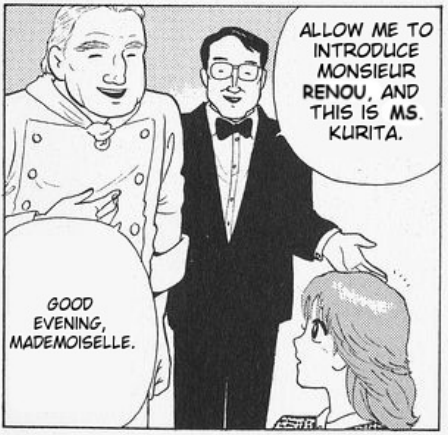

WHAT A SPLENDID HOTEL THIS IS!

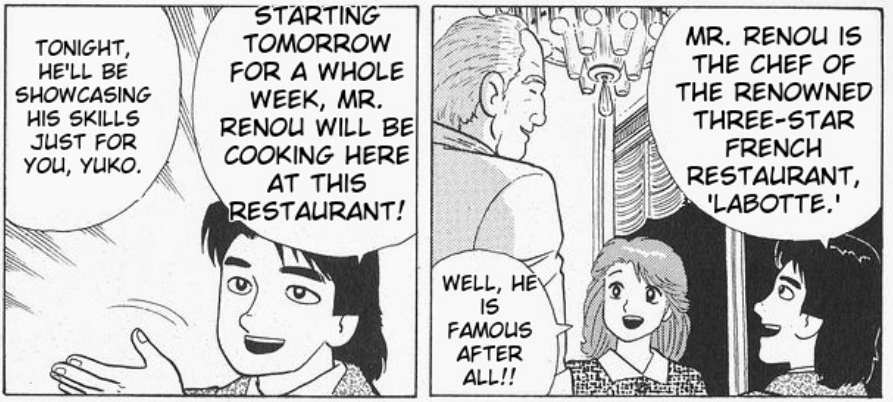

THIS RESTAURANT MUST NOT BE VERY POPULAR...
THERE AREN'T ANY OTHER GUESTS BESIDES US...

8

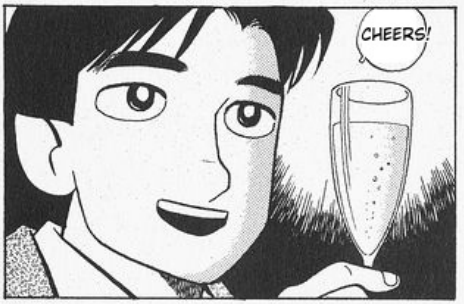

ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MONSIEUR RENOU, AND THIS IS MS. KURITA.
GOOD EVENING, MADEMOISELLE.

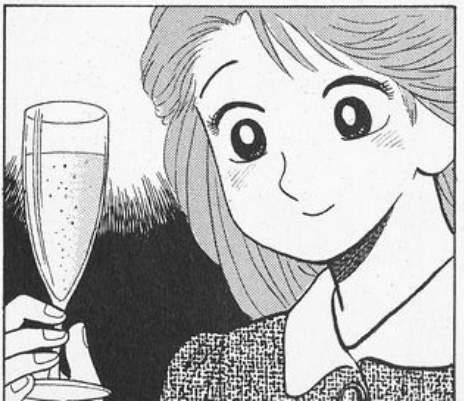
TONIGHT, IT'S ALL RESERVED JUST FOR YOU, YUKO-SAN.

WHAT?! FOR MY SAKE?! THAT'S INCREDIBLE!


TONIGHT, HE'LL BE SHOWCASING HIS SKILLS JUST FOR YOU, YUKO.
STARTING TOMORROW FOR A WHOLE WEEK, MR. RENOU WILL BE COOKING HERE AT THIS RESTAURANT!
MR. RENOU IS THE CHEF OF THE RENOWNED THREE-STAR FRENCH RESTAURANT, 'LABOTTE.'
WELL, HE IS FAMOUS AFTER ALL!!

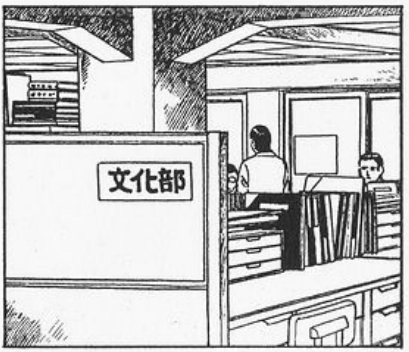
WELL... I'M TRULY HONORED.
I'LL GIVE IT MY ALL!
WHAT? THAT'S TOO MUCH...


CHEERS!



WE SET UP THIS SPECIAL OCCASION FOR YOU.
I HEARD YOU'RE WORKING ON YOUR 'ULTIMATE MENU,' SO-
THANK YOU SO MUCH, BUT I FEEL IT'S TOO MUCH FOR ME...

WHO WAS THAT PERSON YESTERDAY?
I SAW IT, I SAW IT! NOW, SPILL THE BEANS, WILL YA!!!
SO WE'RE FRIENDS WITH THE WIFE OF THE TAYAMA ZAIBATSU HEIR, HUH!
YOU'VE LANDED QUITE THE BIG FISH!
...NO WAY...
OH...
HOW INCREDIBLE! THE HEIR OF THE TAYAMA ZAIBATSU, NO LESS!
10
HE'S DOING ALL THIS BECAUSE HE WANTS TO WOO KURITA!
A PRIVATE DINING EXPERIENCE AT A RESTAURANT? IT'S LIKE A DREAM COME TRUE!
I JUST HAD A MEAL, THAT'S ALL.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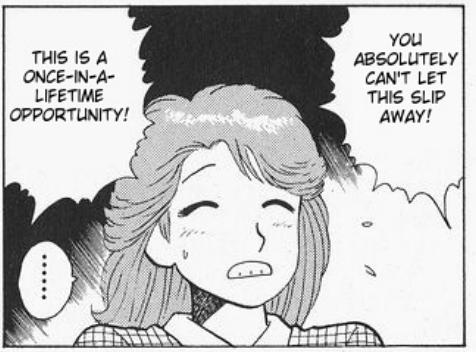
THIS IS A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY!
YOU ABSOLUTELY CAN'T LET THIS SLIP AWAY!
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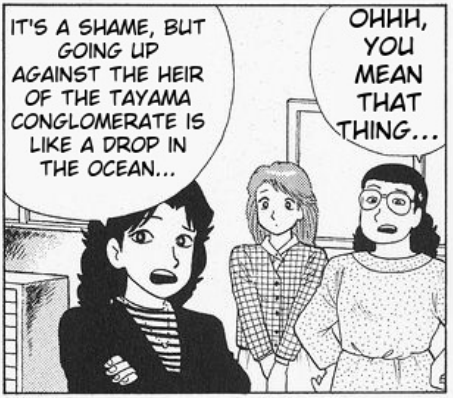
IT'S A SHAME, BUT GOING UP AGAINST THE HEIR OF THE TAYAMA CONGLOMERATE IS LIKE A DROP IN THE OCEAN...
OHHH, YOU MEAN THAT THING...

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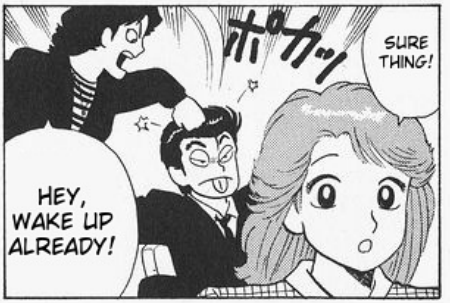
I NEED YOU TO GO COVER THIS STORY.
THEY SAY A FAMOUS CHEF FROM FRANCE IS AT THE RESTAURANT IN THE TAY-YAMA HOTEL,

KURITA-KUN, YAMAOKA-KUN, COME HERE FOR A SEC.

11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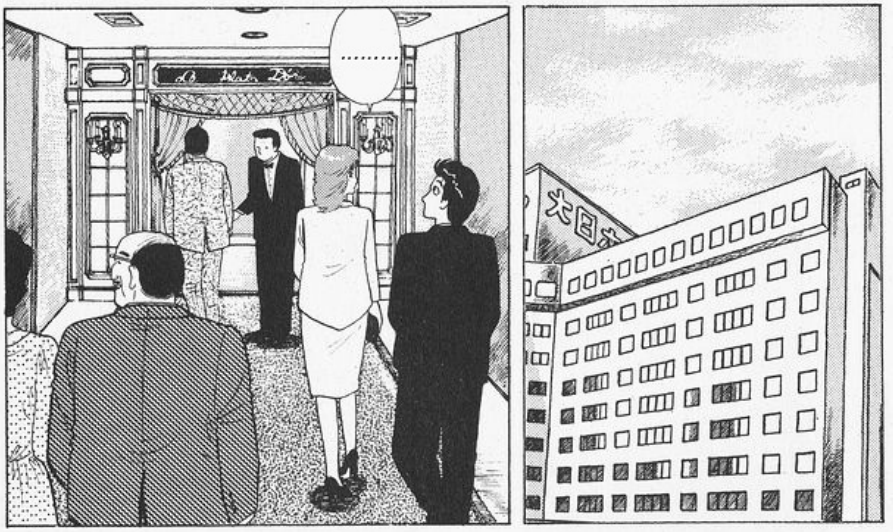
SURE THING!
HEY, WAKE UP ALREADY!

IT SEEMS LIKE IT'S BECOME TRENDY FOR FAMOUS CHEFS FROM FRANCE TO COME OVER, AND I'D LIKE TO FEATURE THAT IN OUR PUBLICATION.
AS EXPECTED OF YOU, KURITA-KUN, YOU LEAVE NO STONE UNTURNED.
AH, YOU MEAN MR. RENOU FROM LABOTTE!
KURITA-SAN, YOU HAVE A PHONE CALL! ♡
HEY NOW, CAN YOU TAKE THIS SERIOUSLY FOR ONCE?
HOW LUCKY!
WHEW! WITH THE END OF THE MONTH AND MY WALLET FEELING LIGHT, THIS MEAL REALLY SAVED ME.
WELL...
IT'S THE HEIR...
12
YES, UM... SURE...
HUH? AH... I SUPPOSE THAT'S FINE, BUT...
WELL THEN...
YES, IT WAS A MARVELOUS MEAL.
THIS IS KURITA. THANK YOU FOR THE FEAST LAST NIGHT.
OH, AND I WANTED TO LET YOU KNOW THAT I'LL BE STOPPING BY FOR AN INTERVIEW ON MONDAY.

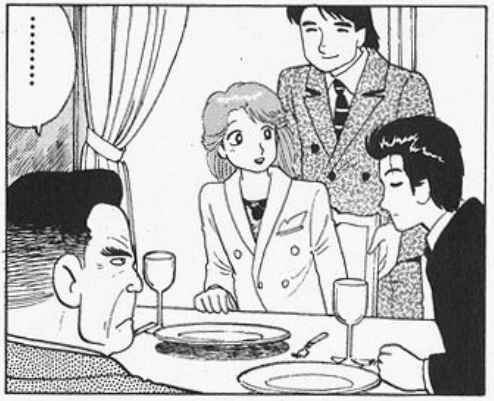
OH NO, THIS IS BAD!
WHEN I MENTIONED I'D BE DOING A COOKING INTERVIEW WITH MR. RENOU ON MONDAY, TAYAMA-SAN ASKED TO JOIN.
WHAT'S WRONG?
HUH? WHAT'S UP?
HE'S GOING TO LOOK LIKE A TOTAL AMATEUR!
WHEN THEY STAND SIDE BY SIDE THE COMPARISON WILL BE BAD...

13


.....

MEET MR. TAYAMA.
UM... I'M YAMAOKA, A COLLEAGUE FROM THE CULTURAL DEPARTMENT.
OH, GOOD EVENING.
HEY THERE, YUKO!
SIGH...
I KNOW IT MIGHT BE A BOTHER, BUT WE'D LOVE FOR YOU TO JOIN US AT OUR TABLE.
HELLO!
I'M TAYAMA, NICE TO MEET YOU.
14
ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE OUR ESTEEMED CRITIC, MR. TAKEHARA.
I'M WELL AWARE OF YOUR ESTEEMED REPUTATION.

DELICIOUS!


.....

THE UPCOMING EVENT WITH MR. RENOU WAS MADE POSSIBLE THANKS TO HIS EXPERTISE.
MR. TAKEHARA IS JAPAN'S TOP CULINARY CRITIC, AND HE HAS STRONG TIES WITH FOREIGN CHEFS.

MR. TAKEHARA, THESE TWO ARE IN CHARGE OF CREATING THE 'ULTIMATE MENU'...
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I'M SAYING—IT'S UTTERLY PRESUMPTUOUS!
DON'T YOU KNOW THE SAYING, 'FOOD IS A LEGACY OF THREE GENERATIONS'?!

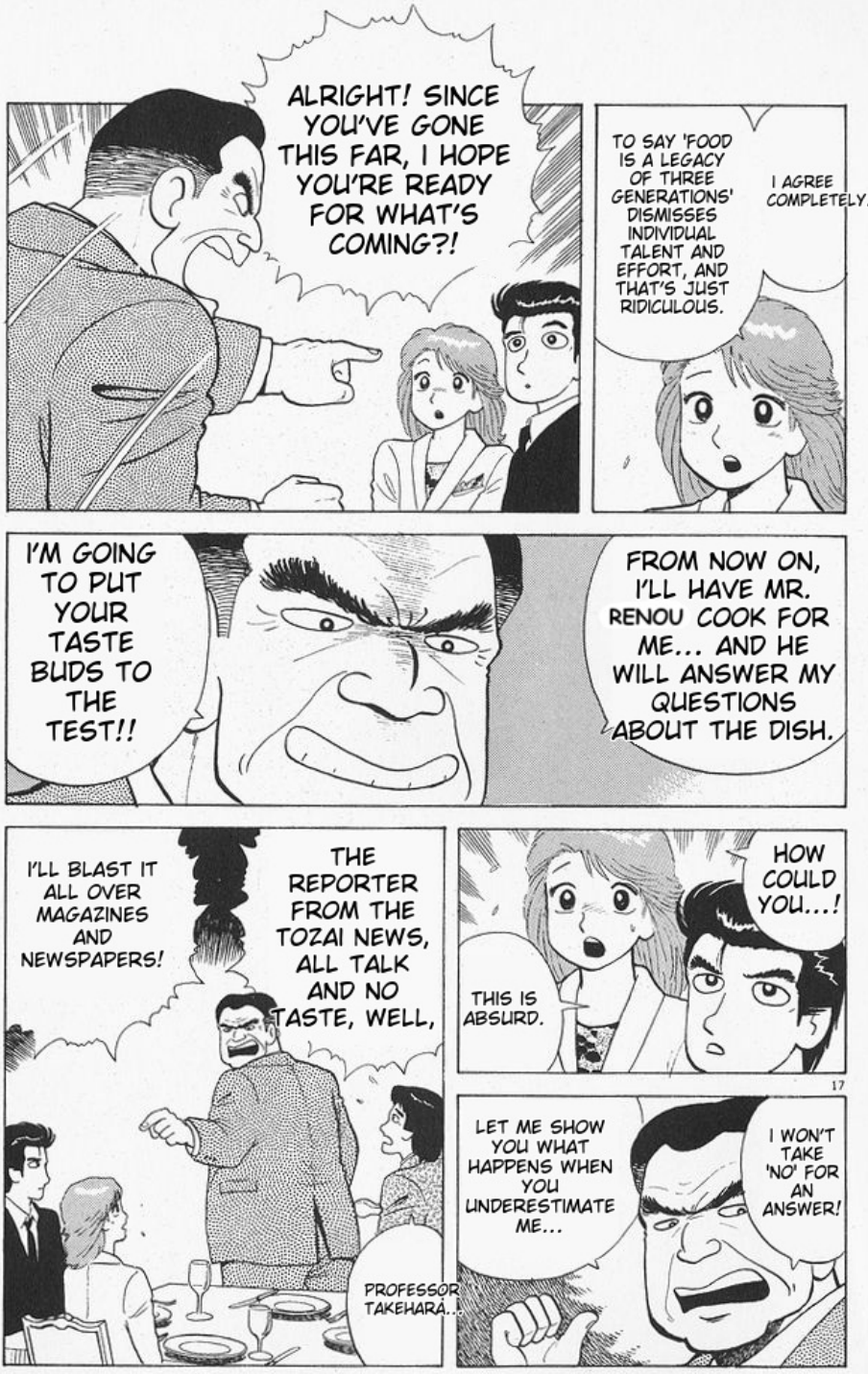
SINCE THE TOZAI NEWSPAPER IS HERE FOR AN INTERVIEW, I DECIDED TO JOIN IN AS WELL, BUT...
SENDING SUCH YOUNG WHIPPERSNAPPERS, HOW RUDE OF THE TOZAI NEWSPAPER!

HUH...?

UPSTARTS CAN NEVER TRULY GRASP THE ESSENCE OF EXQUISITE FLAVORS.
WEALTH MUST BE AMASSED OVER THREE GENERATIONS BEFORE ONE CAN TRULY APPRECIATE FINE CUISINE!

'FOOD IS A LEGACY OF THREE GENERATIONS?'

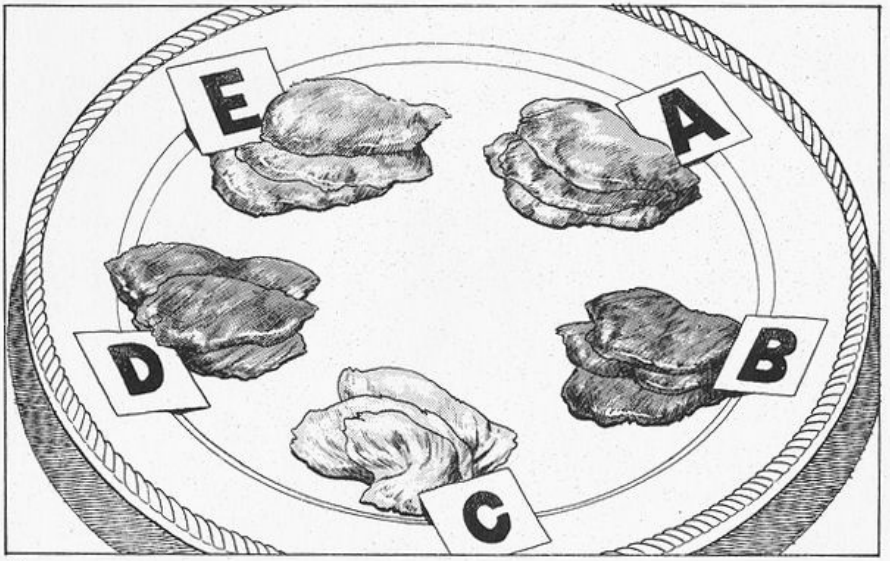
.....
THAT SOUNDS A BIT ODD.
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH, YOU BROKE SALARYMEN, TALKING ABOUT AN 'ULTIMATE MENU' LIKE IT'S WITHIN YOUR REACH!
ONLY SOMEONE FROM A PRESTIGIOUS LINEAGE LIKE THE TAYAMA FAMILY HERE CAN EVEN DREAM OF CRAFTING AN 'ULTIMATE MENU.'
ARE ALL THOSE CHEFS BORN INTO WEALTHY FAMILIES THAT HAVE BEEN AFFLUENT FOR THREE GENERATIONS OR MORE?
HUH...?
THERE ARE A FEW WHO ARE HAILED AS MASTER CHEFS IN THIS WORLD, BUT...
WHAT'S ODD ABOUT IT?
UGH...
NATURAL TALENT COMBINED WITH RIGOROUS TRAINING SHAPES HIM INTO A PERSON WITH A DISCERNING PALATE.
TASTE IS A KIND OF TALENT.
I HEAR HE CAME FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS, WORKING AS A KITCHEN HELPER IN A RESTAURANT SINCE HE WAS JUST TEN YEARS OLD.
TAKE CHEF RENOU, FOR EXAMPLE - HE'S ONE OF THE TOP FIVE CULINARY MAESTROS IN ALL OF FRANCE...


ALRIGHT! SINCE YOU'VE GONE THIS FAR, I HOPE YOU'RE READY FOR WHAT'S COMING?!
TO SAY 'FOOD IS A LEGACY OF THREE GENERATIONS' DISMISSES INDIVIDUAL TALENT AND EFFORT, AND THAT'S JUST RIDICULOUS.
I AGREE COMPLETELY.
I'M GOING TO PUT YOUR TASTE BUDS TO THE TEST!!
FROM NOW ON, I'LL HAVE MR. RENOU COOK FOR ME... AND HE WILL ANSWER MY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE DISH.
I'LL BLAST IT ALL OVER MAGAZINES AND NEWSPAPERS!
THE REPORTER FROM THE TOZAI NEWS, ALL TALK AND NO TASTE, WELL,
PROFESSOR TAKEHARA...
HOW COULD YOU...!
THIS IS ABSURD.
17
LET ME SHOW YOU WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU UNDERESTIMATE ME...
I WON'T TAKE 'NO' FOR AN ANSWER!

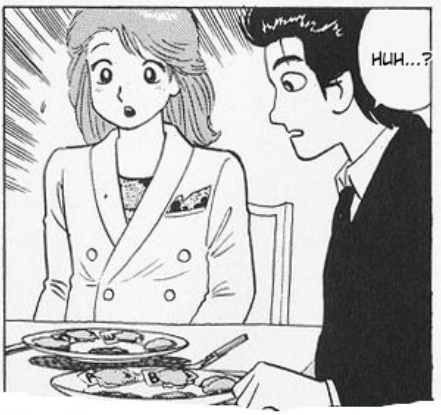
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT, MR. TAYAMA.
I THOUGHT HAVING PROFESSOR TAKEHARA HELP YOU INTERVIEW MR. RENOU WOULD BE BENEFICIAL, SO I CALLED HIM IN...
YUKO, I'M SO SORRY! I NEVER IMAGINED IT WOULD TURN OUT LIKE THIS...
UM, EXCUSE ME...
SO, HOW DID I DO, SHOUICHI?

IF YOU CAN THOROUGHLY TROUNCE HIM, SHE'LL BE CRUSHED...
AND WHEN I SWOOP IN TO SAVE THE DAY, I'LL LOOK LIKE A GOD TO HER, AND SHE'LL BE EATING OUT OF THE PALM OF MY HAND!
YOU DID GREAT! NOW LET'S MAKE THOSE TWO EAT THEIR WORDS RIGHT HERE!
WELL, THAT'S TRUE, BUT THAT GUY SEEMS PRETTY UNYIELDING...
IF IT'S SOMEONE LIKE MR. TAYAMA, WOMEN SHOULD BE FLOCKING TO HIM WITHOUT ALL THIS HASSLE...
I'M COUNTING ON YOU! IF WE DON'T PUT HIM IN A TIGHT SPOT, MY WHOLE PLAN WILL GO DOWN IN FLAMES.
LEAVE IT TO ME!
CLAIMING THAT 'FOOD LASTS THREE GENERATIONS' IS NOTHING BUT NONSENSE...
STILL, THAT YAMAOKA FELLOW IS QUITE THE COCKY ONE!
19
I'LL MAKE HIM REALIZE HIS FOLLY.
IT'S CLEAR THAT THE TASTE BUDS OF A POOR SALARYMAN AREN'T WORTH A DIME,

I'LL HANDLE THIS SITUATION, SO DON'T YOU WORRY.
I'M SORRY, IT'S TURNED INTO SOMETHING STRANGE...
NOW, HERE'S THE FIRST QUESTION.


E
A
D
B
C

I WANT YOU TO GUESS WHAT KIND OF MEAT EACH ONE IS.
THERE ARE FIVE TYPES OF RAW MEAT.


HUH...?

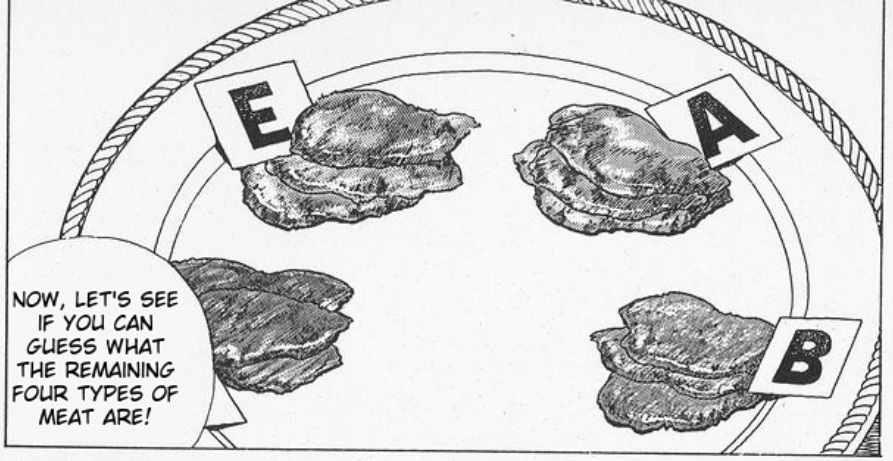
DELICIOUS!

WELL THEN, LET'S GET STARTED!
THE ANSWER IS WRITTEN ON THIS PAPER.
THE AROMA IS FAINT, AND THE FLAVOR, THE TEXTURE—IT'S ALL HARDER TO DISTINGUISH THAN COOKED MEAT...
I CAN'T FIGURE OUT THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MEAT WHEN IT'S RAW...
YOU'RE RIGHT, ONLY C HAS A DISTINCT QUALITY TO ITS SMELL...
THERE'S ONE PIECE WITH A NOTABLY DIFFERENT SCENT...
HMM...
.....
ヒク
ヒク
IS IT CHICKEN?
THIS IS...?
21
C IS THE ONLY ONE THAT'S POULTRY...
INDEED, EVERYTHING ELSE IS GAME MEAT, BUT—
C

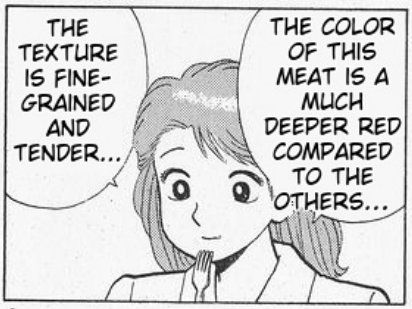
COME ON, TELL ME WHAT MEAT IT IS!
YEP, THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT.
I KNEW IT.
THIS IS INDEED DUCK.
SENSEI.....
.....
WELL, EVEN A FOOL COULD GET THAT MUCH!
IT'S THE BREAST MEAT OF THE DUCK.
NOW, WHAT ARE THE OTHER FOUR TYPES OF MEAT?!

22

第5話
食は三代？
〈後編〉


E
A
B
NOW, LET'S SEE IF YOU CAN GUESS WHAT THE REMAINING FOUR TYPES OF MEAT ARE!

……


THE TEXTURE IS FINE-GRAINED AND TENDER...
THE COLOR OF THIS MEAT IS A MUCH DEEPER RED COMPARED TO THE OTHERS...

2

AH, THE SCENT OF THE WILD... I'VE FIGURED IT OUT.
I REMEMBER THIS UNIQUE FEEL OF THE MEAT.
QUIT TEASING AND JUST TELL ME WHAT MEAT IT IS ALREADY!

WHOA, THIS SMELL IS...,

ピク

DELICIOUS!

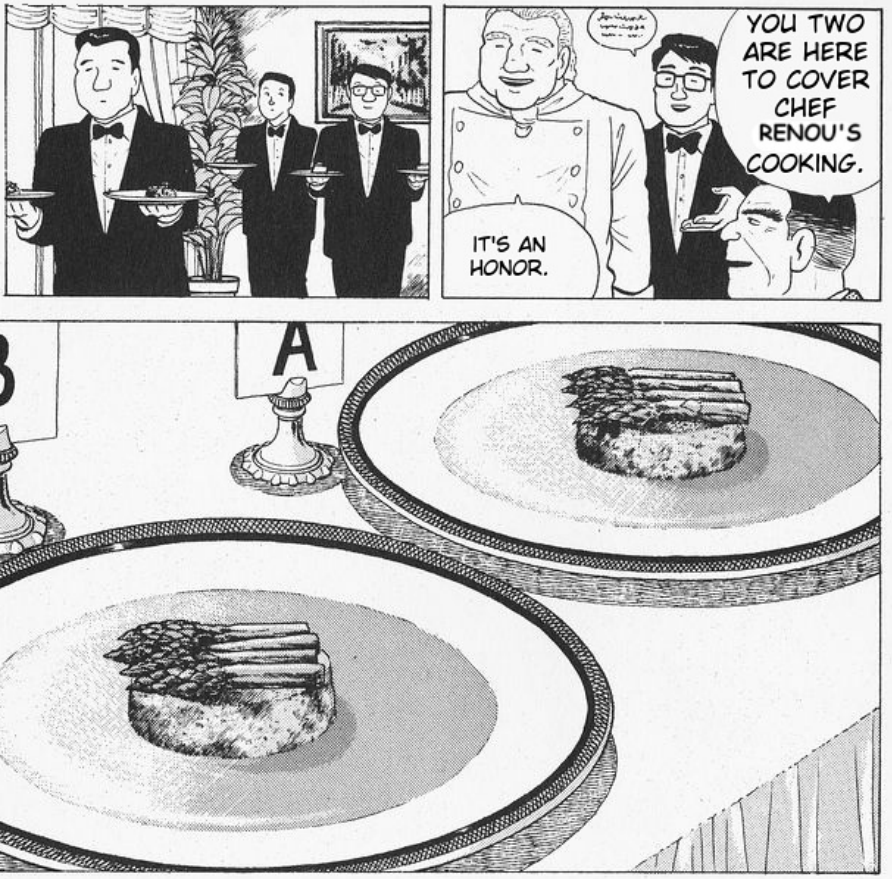
INDEED, IT IS DEER MEAT!
WOW, I'M STUNNED...
I THINK IT'S DEER.
THE COLOR IS A VIVID CHERRY PINK.
YEAH, IT HAS A ROUGH TEXTURE, BUT ON THE TONGUE, IT FEELS DELIGHTFULLY CHEWY...
THIS ONE'S DEFINITELY HORSE MEAT.
DEER MEAT HAS ITS OWN UNIQUE CHARACTER, YOU KNOW...
...HMPH.
B
NOW THEN... LET'S TALK ABOUT THE MEAT LABELED B...
THAT'S AN EASY ONE, IT'S BEEF.
IT'S THE MEAT I'M MOST FAMILIAR WITH.
THE SCENT ALONE TELLS ME WHAT D IS.
EXACTLY RIGHT...!
3

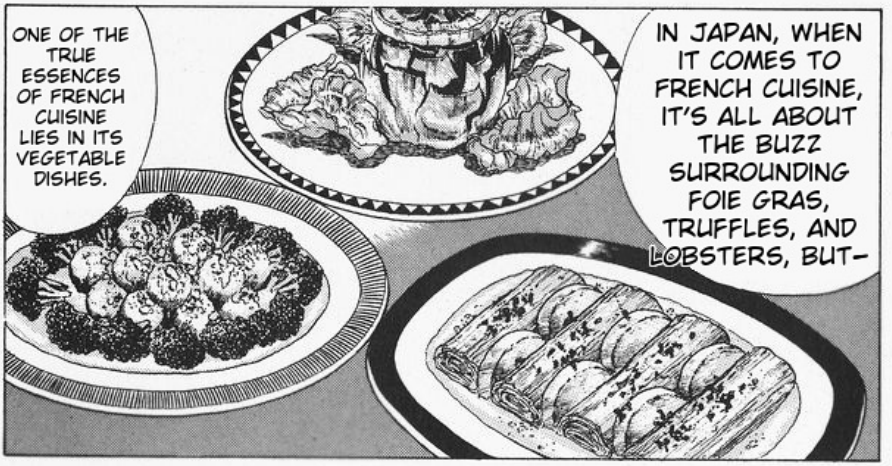
E
NOW, THE FINAL ONE IS GOING TO BE TRICKY.
ALRIGHT, HERE WE GO!
WHAT DO YOU THINK? YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO GUESS THIS!
THIS IS REALLY TOUGH...
HMM...
IT'S LIKE A BLEND OF DUCK AND HORSE MEAT...
4
THIS MEAT IS PURELY FROM THE LEAN CUTS, THAT'S WHY WE GOT ALL MIXED UP.
NO, GO WITH WHAT YOU WERE THINKING!
OH, I SEE! SO THIS IS...!
BUT...
I DEFINITELY RECOGNIZE THIS FLAVOR AND TASTE...
THIS IS IT!
ゥはっはっは

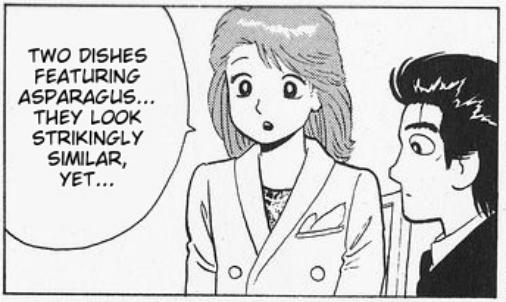
UGH...
THE FAT HAS BEEN TRIMMED OFF AND YOU ONLY SERVED THE LEAN CUT.
RIGHT... IT'S LAMB MEAT.
ギョッ
WOW, IT'S INCREDIBLE! YOU REALLY ARE WORTHY OF HANDLING THE 'ULTIMATE MENU.'
I DID IT! I GOT ALL FIVE RIGHT!
パチパチ
UGH...
THEY CALL IT THE RIBEYE; IT'S THE TENDER RED CENTER OF THE LAMB'S RIB.
Y-YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT!
5
A SKILL LIKE THIS IS SOMETHING A BUTCHER'S APPRENTICE COULD MANAGE!
NOT QUITE! YOU ONLY GUESSED THE INGREDIENTS!
ジロリ

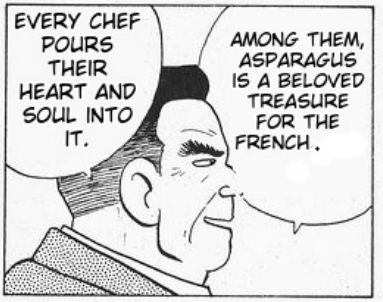
BUT WE CAME HERE TO INTERVIEW MONSIEUR RENOU ABOUT HIS CULINARY MASTERPIECES...
A COMPETITION, YOU SAY?
DON'T YOU WORRY...
THE REAL CONTEST BEGINS NOW!
THE SAYING GOES 'FOOD REVEALS ITS TRUE ESSENCE OVER THREE GENERATIONS!'
I'LL TREAT YOU TO A FEAST OF MONSIEUR RENOU'S EXQUISITE DISHES...
6
THANK YOU FOR THE MEAL.
GOOD EVENING, MADEMOISELLE.

DELICIOUS!


YOU TWO ARE HERE TO COVER CHEF RENOU'S COOKING.
IT'S AN HONOR.
B
A
I SOURCED THIS FROM AUSTRALIA, WHERE THE SEASONS ARE FLIPPED FROM JAPAN.
I JUST HAD TO HAVE IT RECREATED IN JAPAN DURING THIS SEASON,
AT THIS TIME OF YEAR...?
OH, GREEN ASPARAGUS!
7
THIS IS ONE OF HIS SIGNATURE DISHES...

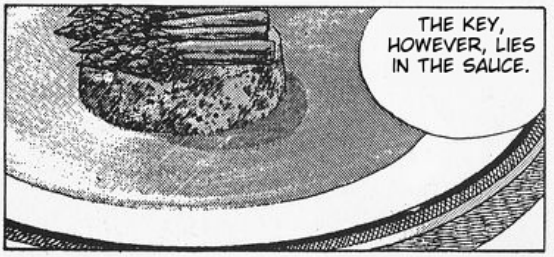

ONE OF THE TRUE ESSENCES OF FRENCH CUISINE LIES IN ITS VEGETABLE DISHES.
IN JAPAN, WHEN IT COMES TO FRENCH CUISINE, IT'S ALL ABOUT THE BUZZ SURROUNDING FOIE GRAS, TRUFFLES, AND LOBSTERS, BUT-


TWO DISHES FEATURING ASPARAGUS... THEY LOOK STRIKINGLY SIMILAR, YET...

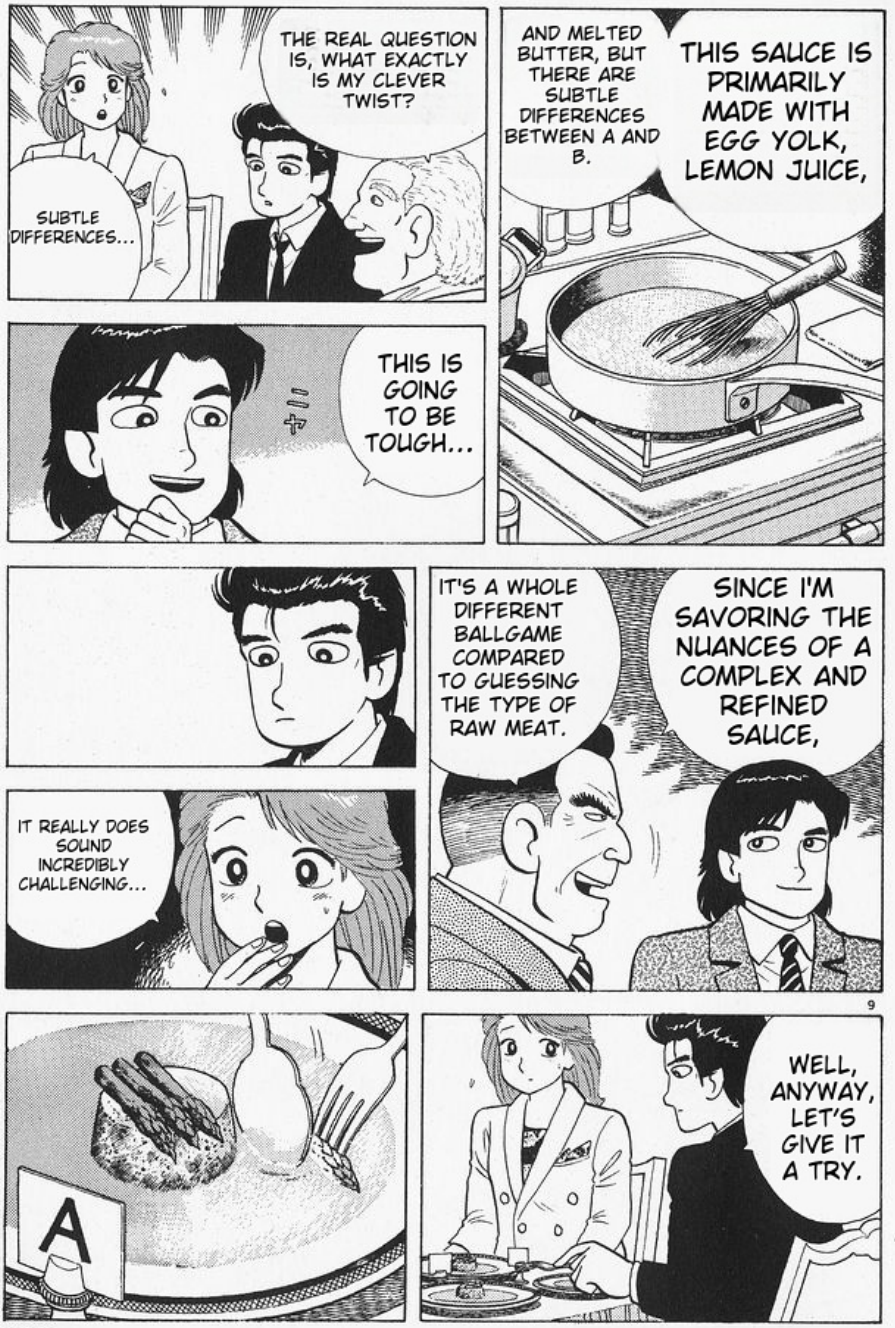

EVERY CHEF POURS THEIR HEART AND SOUL INTO IT.
AMONG THEM, ASPARAGUS IS A BELOVED TREASURE FOR THE FRENCH.

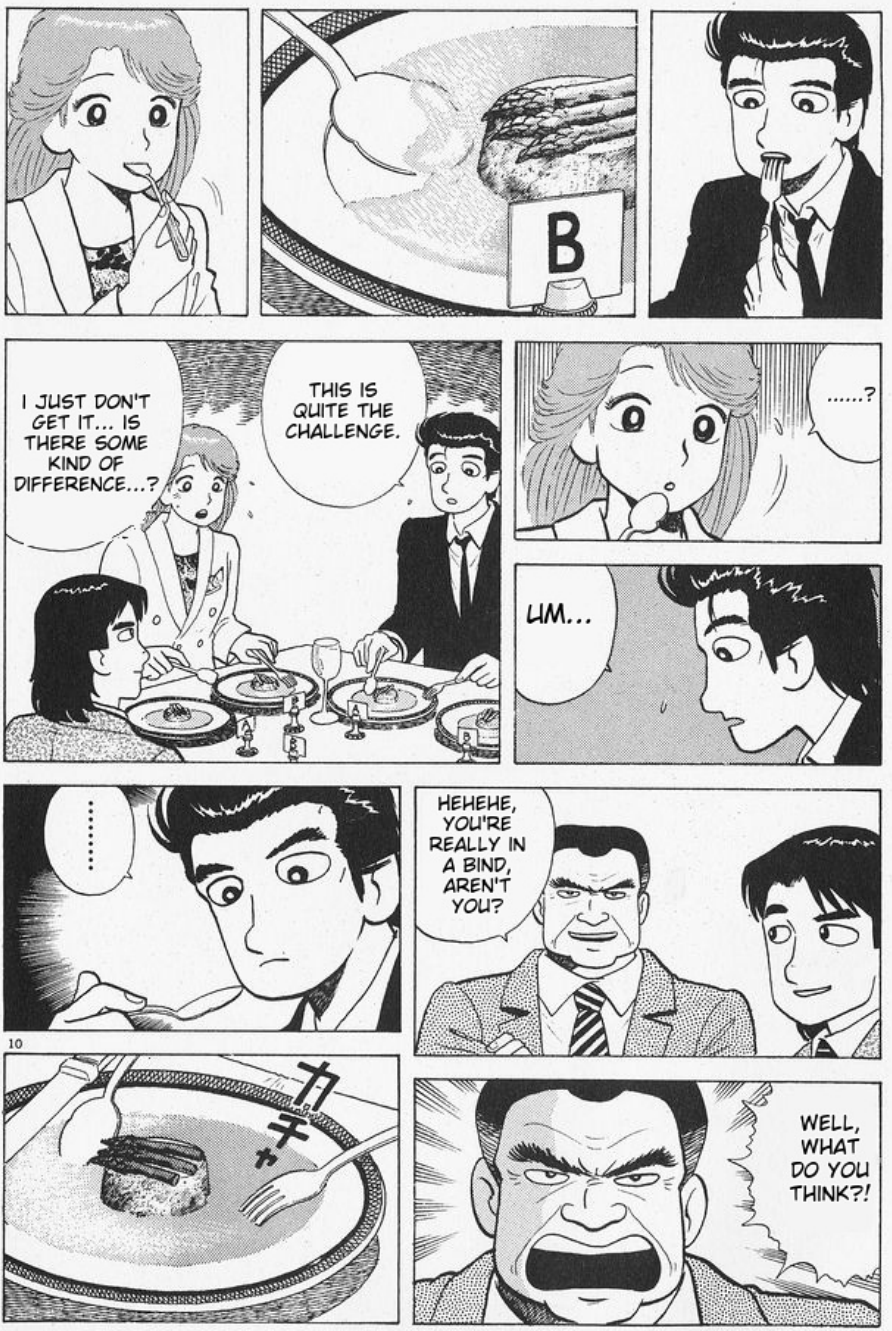
THE MOUSSE AND THE ASPARAGUS ARE IDENTICAL IN BOTH DISHES.
WHAT GRACES THE PLATE IS A DELIGHTFUL MOUSSE MADE FROM ASPARAGUS AND THE SUCCULENT FLESH OF SCALLOPS.

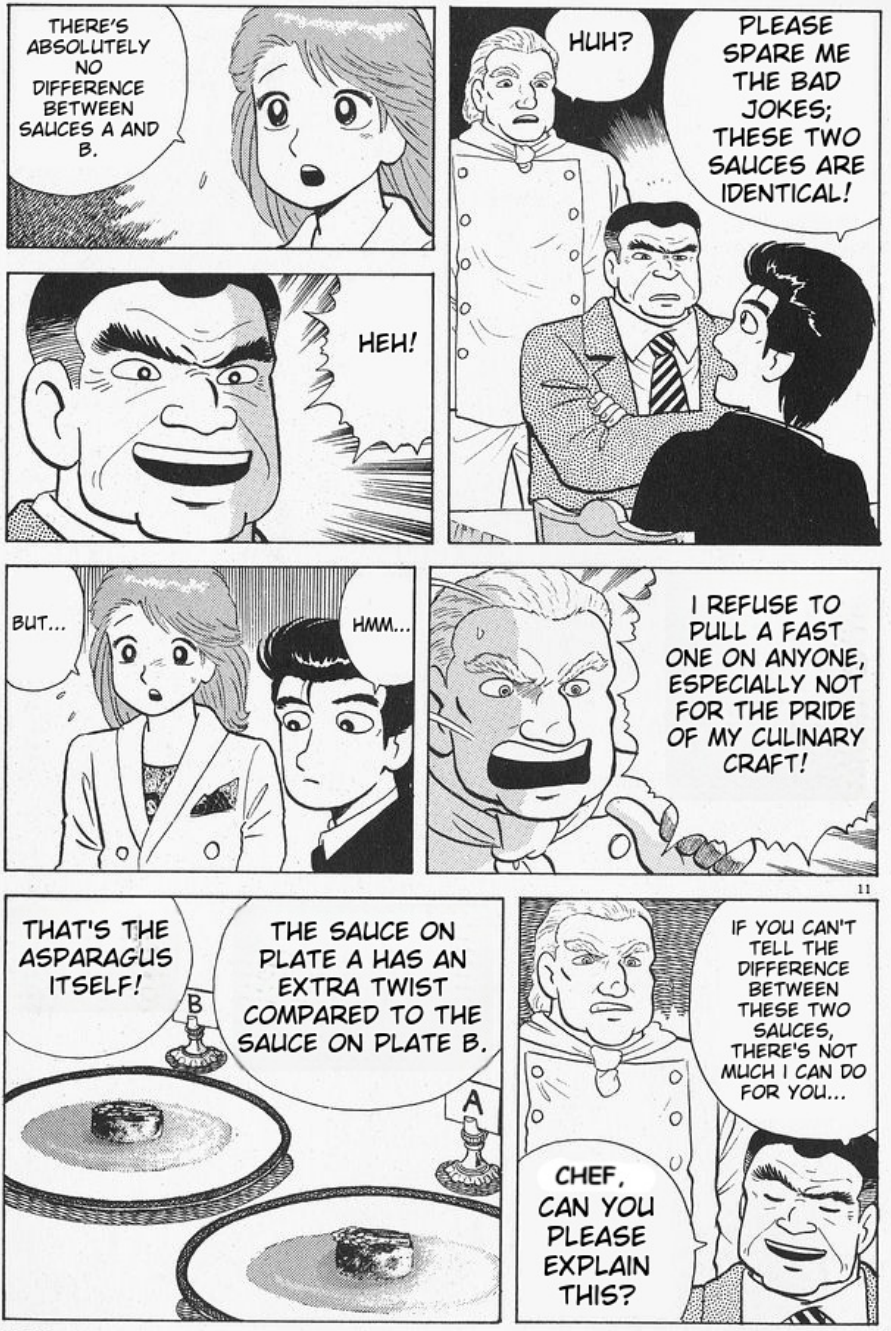
8

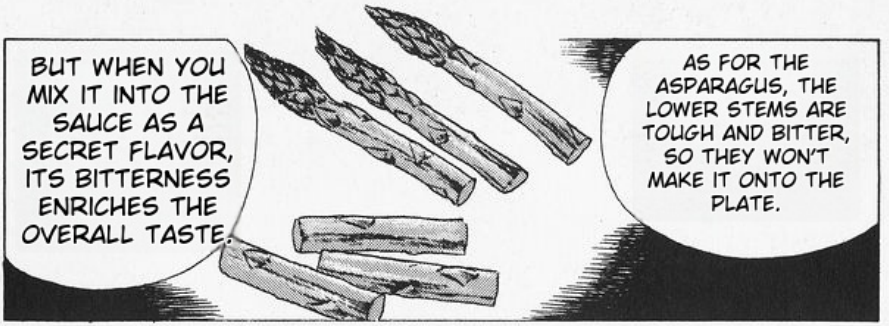

THE KEY, HOWEVER, LIES IN THE SAUCE.

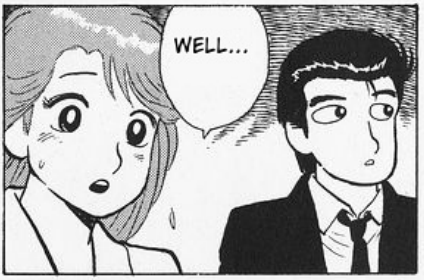
MR. RENOU, COULD YOU UNRAVEL THE SECRETS OF THIS DISH FOR US?
A
B


THE REAL QUESTION IS, WHAT EXACTLY IS MY CLEVER TWIST?
SUBTLE DIFFERENCES...
THIS SAUCE IS PRIMARILY MADE WITH EGG YOLK, LEMON JUICE,
AND MELTED BUTTER, BUT THERE ARE SUBTLE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN A AND B.
THIS IS GOING TO BE TOUGH...
SINCE I'M SAVORING THE NUANCES OF A COMPLEX AND REFINED SAUCE,
IT'S A WHOLE DIFFERENT BALLGAME COMPARED TO GUESSING THE TYPE OF RAW MEAT.
IT REALLY DOES SOUND INCREDIBLY CHALLENGING...
9
A
WELL, ANYWAY, LET'S GIVE IT A TRY.

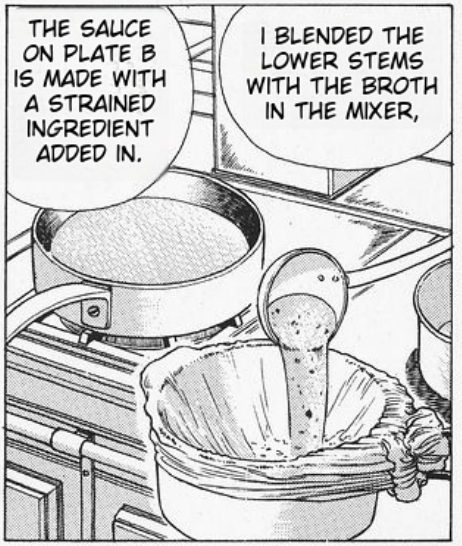

B
I JUST DON'T GET IT... IS THERE SOME KIND OF DIFFERENCE...?
THIS IS QUITE THE CHALLENGE.
.....?
UM...
.....
HEHEHE, YOU'RE REALLY IN A BIND, AREN'T YOU?
10
カチャ
WELL, WHAT DO YOU THINK?!


THERE'S ABSOLUTELY NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SAUCES A AND B.
HUH?
PLEASE SPARE ME THE BAD JOKES; THESE TWO SAUCES ARE IDENTICAL!
HEH!
BUT...
HMM...
I REFUSE TO PULL A FAST ONE ON ANYONE, ESPECIALLY NOT FOR THE PRIDE OF MY CULINARY CRAFT!
11
THAT'S THE ASPARAGUS ITSELF!
THE SAUCE ON PLATE A HAS AN EXTRA TWIST COMPARED TO THE SAUCE ON PLATE B.
B
A
IF YOU CAN'T TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THESE TWO SAUCES, THERE'S NOT MUCH I CAN DO FOR YOU...
CHEF, CAN YOU PLEASE EXPLAIN THIS?

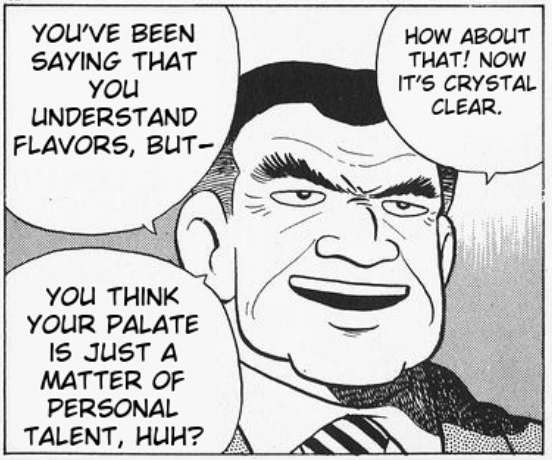

BUT WHEN YOU MIX IT INTO THE SAUCE AS A SECRET FLAVOR, ITS BITTERNESS ENRICHES THE OVERALL TASTE.
AS FOR THE ASPARAGUS, THE LOWER STEMS ARE TOUGH AND BITTER, SO THEY WON'T MAKE IT ONTO THE PLATE.


WELL...

A
B
A
WHICH ONE?

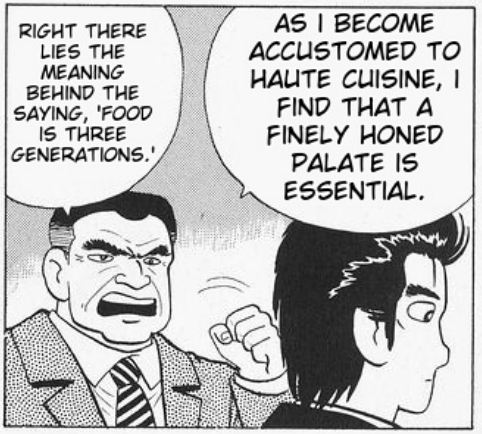

I BLENDED THE LOWER STEMS WITH THE BROTH IN THE MIXER,
THE SAUCE ON PLATE B IS MADE WITH A STRAINED INGREDIENT ADDED IN.

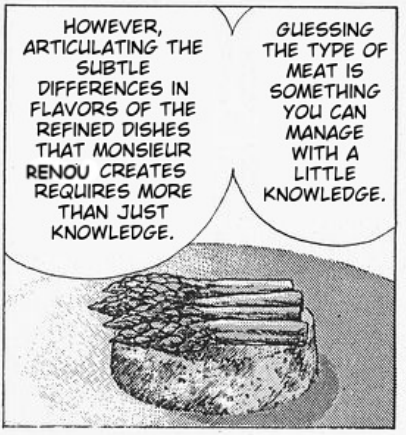
12

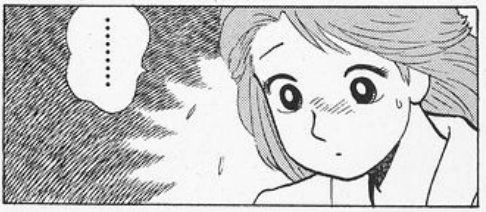

YOU'VE BEEN SAYING THAT YOU UNDERSTAND FLAVORS, BUT-
HOW ABOUT THAT! NOW IT'S CRYSTAL CLEAR.
YOU THINK YOUR PALATE IS JUST A MATTER OF PERSONAL TALENT, HUH?

OH, YOU'RE RIGHT! THE DIFFERENCE IS CRYSTAL CLEAR.

DELICIOUS!


RIGHT THERE LIES THE MEANING BEHIND THE SAYING, 'FOOD IS THREE GENERATIONS.'
AS I BECOME ACCUSTOMED TO HAUTE CUISINE, I FIND THAT A FINELY HONED PALATE IS ESSENTIAL.


HOWEVER, ARTICULATING THE SUBTLE DIFFERENCES IN FLAVORS OF THE REFINED DISHES THAT MONSIEUR RENOU CREATES REQUIRES MORE THAN JUST KNOWLEDGE.
GUESSING THE TYPE OF MEAT IS SOMETHING YOU CAN MANAGE WITH A LITTLE KNOWLEDGE.


.....

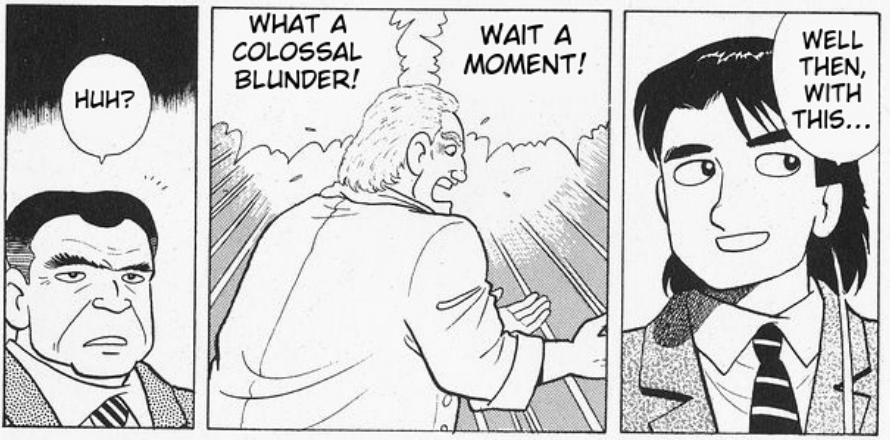
THERE EXISTS A WORLD OF FLAVORS, YOU KNOW!
YOU CAN'T CATCH UP WITH JUST A CRASH COURSE OF STUDY OR TRAINING,

I THINK IT'S TIME FOR ME TO HEAD HOME.
GOOD GRIEF, AT THIS RATE, CONTINUING THE INTERVIEW ON MONSIEUR RENOU'S CUISINE IS SIMPLY IMPOSSIBLE!
ガ"

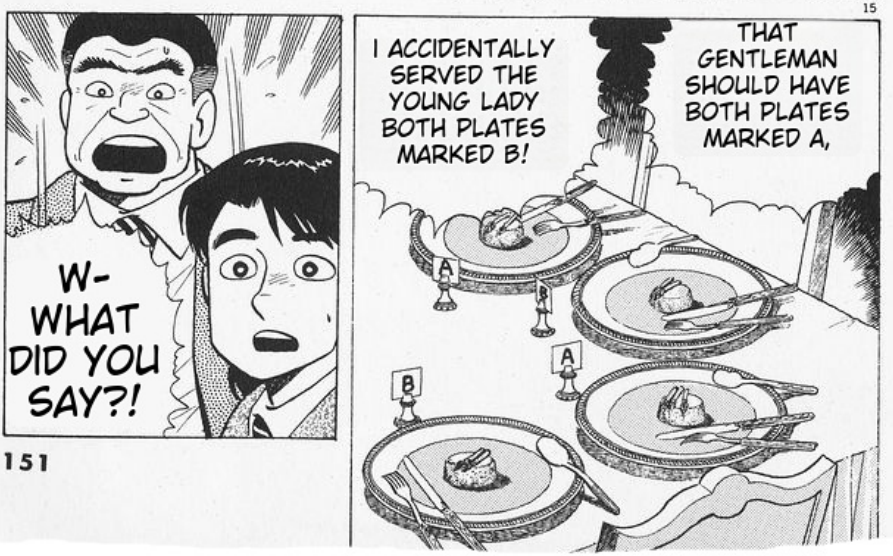
I'LL BE SURE TO WRITE ABOUT TODAY'S EVENTS FAR AND WIDE!
HA HA HA! GO AHEAD AND RUN LIKE THE WIND, BUT THIS SPELLS THE END OF YOUR SO-CALLED 'ULTIMATE MENU!'

THESE TWO SAUCES SHARE THE SAME FLAVOR.
BUT NO MATTER WHAT YOU SAY,
IT SEEMS LIKE I'VE BEEN EXPERTLY TRAPPED IN THIS SITUATION...
I'M WITH YOU ON THAT; I THINK THEY BOTH TASTE THE SAME.
TO BE THROWING AROUND EXCUSES AT THIS POINT IS JUST PATHETIC!
ENOUGH ALREADY!
NOT BEING ABLE TO TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THESE SAUCES IS JUST...
14
B
SEE, THIS IS THE LEVEL OF TASTE THOSE FOLKS POSSESS.
YEAH, I EXPECTED A SHARPER SENSE FROM YOU, BUT I'M LEFT FEELING A BIT LET DOWN.

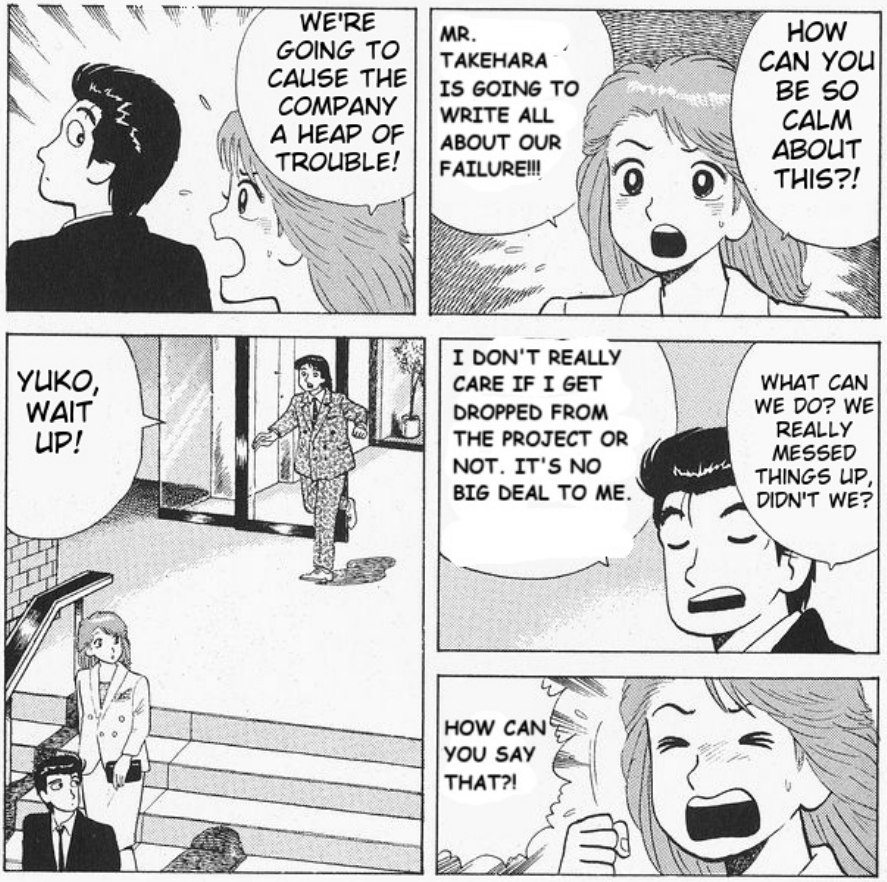
NOW, WE JUST SAY THAT I DECIDED NOT TO WRITE NEGATIVELY ABOUT THE ULTIMATE MENU THANKS TO YOUR INFLUENCE, AND THAT LADY WILL SURELY BE GRATEFUL TO YOU.
WELL, THAT CERTAINLY WENT A BIT DIFFERENTLY.
NOW ALL THAT'S LEFT IS, HEHEHE...


HUH?
WHAT A COLOSSAL BLUNDER!
WAIT A MOMENT!
WELL THEN, WITH THIS...

15


W-WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
I ACCIDENTALLY SERVED THE YOUNG LADY BOTH PLATES MARKED B!
THAT GENTLEMAN SHOULD HAVE BOTH PLATES MARKED A,
A
B
A
B

I HAVE TO APOLOGIZE TO THOSE TWO!
I MUST HAVE MESSED UP WHEN I WAS GIVING THE STAFF INSTRUCTIONS.
WELL, OF COURSE, IF BOTH TASTE THE SAME, THAT'S A GIVEN...
HMM...
THERE'S NO NEED TO CHASE AFTER THEM TO ADMIT OUR FAULT.
IF WE STAY QUIET, THEY'LL NEVER KNOW.
JUST LEAVE THEM BE. THEY'RE CONVINCED THEY'VE LOST.
16
LET'S GO GRAB SOMETHING DELICIOUS TO FIX THIS MESS!


WE'RE GOING TO CAUSE THE COMPANY A HEAP OF TROUBLE!
MR. TAKEHARA IS GOING TO WRITE ALL ABOUT OUR FAILURE!!!
HOW CAN YOU BE SO CALM ABOUT THIS?!
YUKO, WAIT UP!
I DON'T REALLY CARE IF I GET DROPPED FROM THE PROJECT OR NOT. IT'S NO BIG DEAL TO ME.
WHAT CAN WE DO? WE REALLY MESSED THINGS UP, DIDN'T WE?
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT?!
17
ANYWAY, PLEASE COME BACK TO THE RESTAURANT ONE MORE TIME.
HUH?
YUKO, YOU WERE RIGHT ALL ALONG!

THE VERSION WITHOUT ASPARAGUS HAS A LIGHTER FLAVOR, DOESN'T IT?
OH, YOU'RE RIGHT! THE FLAVOR OF THE SAUCE IS DEFINITELY DIFFERENT.
WHAT ON EARTH SHOULD I SAY TO APOLOGIZE...
I TRULY APOLOGIZE FOR THE INCONVENIENCE.
JUST YOU WAIT, I'LL BE ROLLING UP MY SLEEVES IN NO TIME!
I'VE COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN ABOUT EARLIER.
UNBELIEVABLE! JUST THINKING ABOUT ALL THE DELICIOUS DISHES THAT ARE ABOUT TO COME OUT GETS ME ALL FIRED UP!
HMPH... IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER IF YOU'D JUST KEPT QUIET...
18
I'M SURE MR. RENOU WOULD'VE SAID SOMETHING./
BUT IF WE JUST SENT THEM HOME LIKE THAT,
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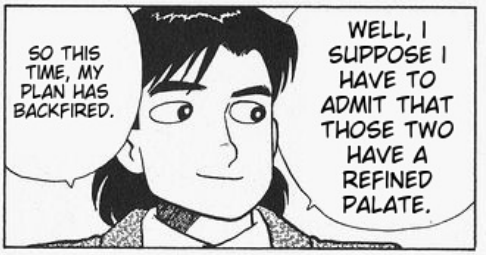
MY REPUTATION IS RUINED BECAUSE I TRIED TO HELP YOU WOO THAT LADY!
YOU OWE ME FOR HELPING YOU OUT, TAYAMA!


SO THIS TIME, MY PLAN HAS BACKFIRED.
WELL, I SUPPOSE I HAVE TO ADMIT THAT THOSE TWO HAVE A REFINED PALATE.

MY THEORY THAT 'FOOD IS PASSED DOWN THROUGH THREE GENERATIONS' HAS BEEN SHATTERED!
WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO MY STANDING?

I SHALL TAKE MY LEAVE!
I CAN'T TOLERATE THIS ANY LONGER!

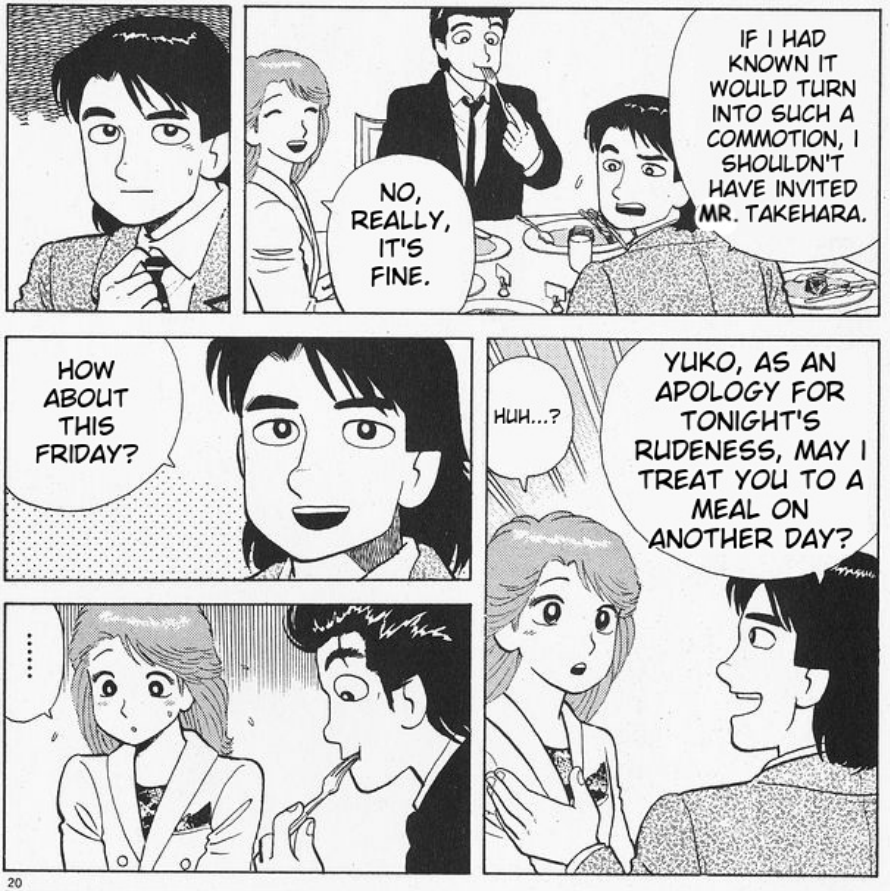
SHH... YOU'RE BEING TOO LOUD.

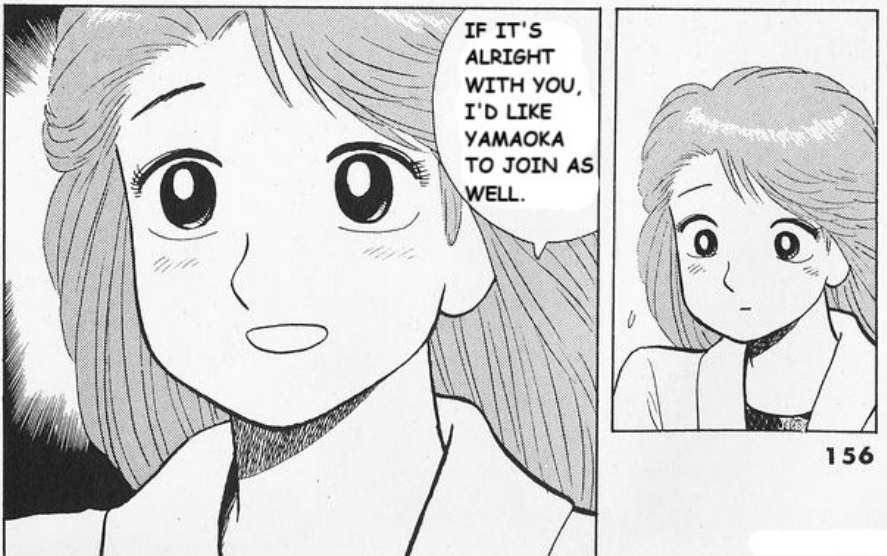
19

WHAT SEEMS TO BE THE MATTER?

?

I TRULY APOLOGIZE FOR TODAY.
AH, NO, UM...


IF I HAD KNOWN IT WOULD TURN INTO SUCH A COMMOTION, I SHOULDN'T HAVE INVITED MR. TAKEHARA.
NO, REALLY, IT'S FINE.
HOW ABOUT THIS FRIDAY?
YUKO, AS AN APOLOGY FOR TONIGHT'S RUDENESS, MAY I TREAT YOU TO A MEAL ON ANOTHER DAY?
HUH...?
.....
20


IF IT'S ALRIGHT WITH YOU, I'D LIKE YAMAOKA TO JOIN AS WELL.

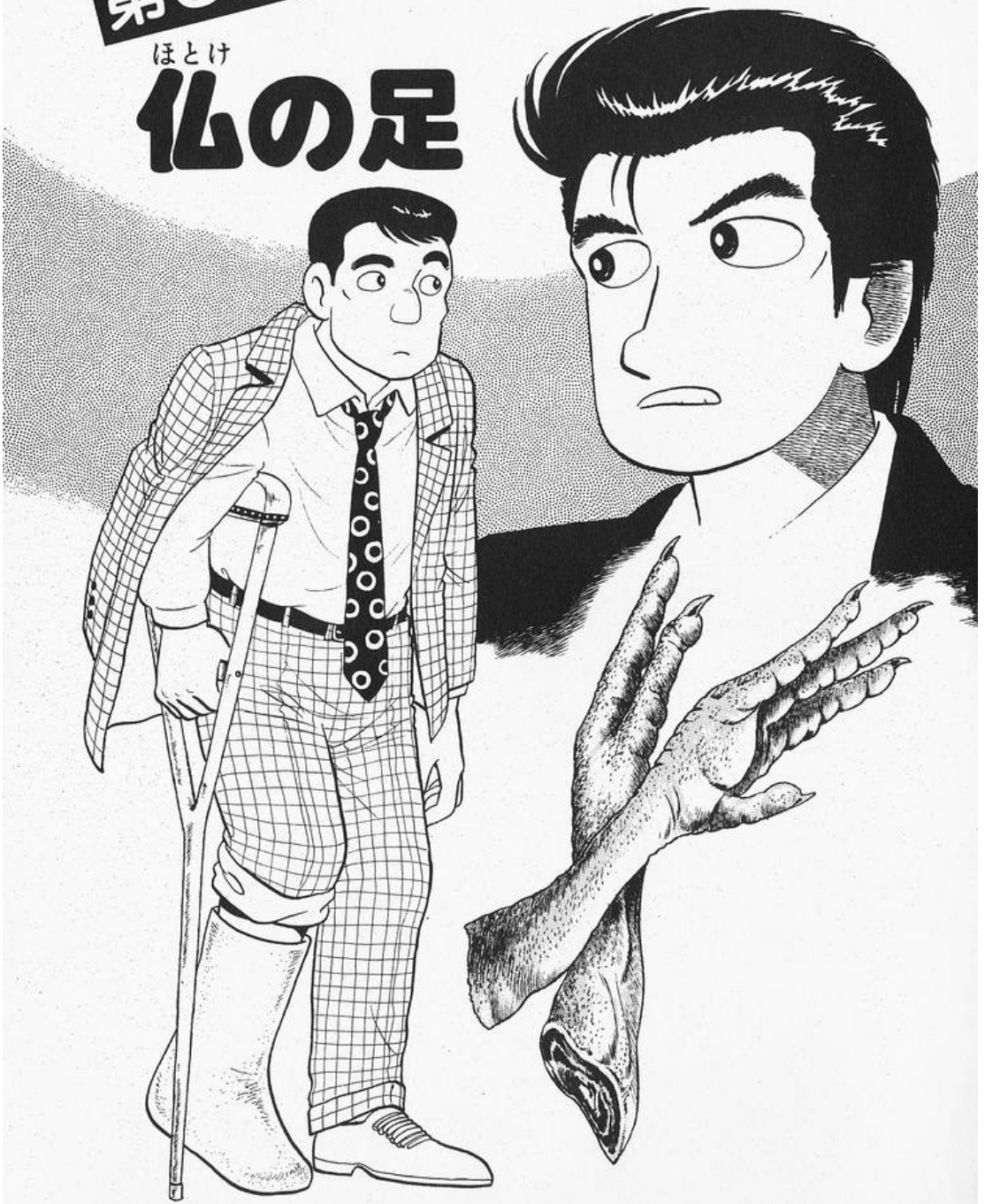
DELICIOUS!

AT THE END OF THE MONTH, WHEN CASH IS TIGHT, THIS WILL SAVE ME ANOTHER MEAL!
WOW, I'M SO HAPPY!
…
HUH?"
HUH? ARE YOU TREATING ME TOO?
WELL THEN...!
BUT...
21
今度は中華がいいなあ！
I'LL KEEP FRIDAY FREE FOR YOU, OKAY?!!
……

WHAT A WASTE!
SERIOUSLY, WHY?!
KURITA, HOW COULD YOU JUST LET TAYAMA-SAN GO?!
フガ～ooo
I WANT TO BUILD MY OWN LEGACY IN JUST ONE GENERATION!
BECAUSE, HONESTLY... THE SAYING 'WEALTH LASTS THREE GENERATIONS' IS SUCH A DRAG.
?
22
WELL, YOU KNOW... BEING LAZY FOR GENERATIONS ISN'T EXACTLY IDEAL...

第6話

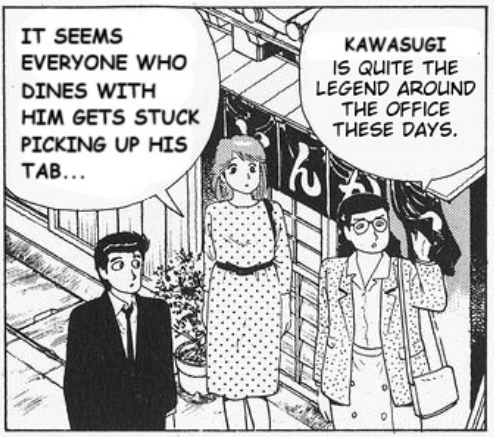
仏(ほとけ)の足



OH MAN, I'M STARVING!
WHOA... THAT'S IMPRESSIVE!
A PORK CUTLET BOWL WITH TONJIRU!
ISN'T THERE A SINGLE LADY WITH SUCH REFINED TASTES?
IS THERE REALLY NO ONE WHO WOULD SAY, 'I JUST DON'T HAVE AN APPETITE TODAY'?
2
SOUNDS GREAT!
I'M CRAVING SOME TONKATSU!
ALRIGHT! I'M GOING FOR KATSU CURRY!
HEY, IF YOU DON'T MIND, CAN I JOIN YOU TOO?!
LUNCH PLANS, HUH?
HEY THERE, CULTURE CLUB MEMBERS!
OH, LOOK WHO IT IS, KAWASUGI FROM THE SOCIAL DEPARTMENT.

SOUNDS GREAT, I LOVE IT TOO! IT'S MY FAVORITE!
パチン
PLEASE JOIN US! WE'RE GOING TO HAVE SOME TONKATSU.
HMM...
WELL, I GUESS THOSE WITH DISCERNING TASTE CAN TELL.
WOW, THANK YOU!
THE CULTURE SECTION HAS REALLY BEEN THRIVING LATELY, GREAT JOB!
3
AH-I'VE EATEN MY FILL, I'M STUFFED!
とんかつ

I REALLY WANT TO SEE TONKATSU ON THE 'ULTIMATE MENU!'
AH, JEEZ, IT SEEMS I'M A LITTLE LIGHT...
ABSOLUTELY!
THAT'S 800 YEN FOR YAMAOKA, 950 FOR KAWASUGI, AND 800 FOR KURITA.
SURE THING!
HEY YAMAOKA, COULD YOU COVER ME FOR A BIT?
4
SEE YA!
THANKS! SEE YA, GUYS!


IT SEEMS EVERYONE WHO DINES WITH HIM GETS STUCK PICKING UP HIS TAB...
KAWASUGI IS QUITE THE LEGEND AROUND THE OFFICE THESE DAYS.

YAMAOKA-SAN, YOU'VE BEEN PLAYED.
HOW FOOLISH.

HUH?

JUST ACCEPT IT.
WHAT?! SO HE'S NOT GOING TO REPAY ME MY MONEY?!

YOU PICK UP A TAB FOR HIM AND THE NEXT DAY HE ACTS LIKE IT NEVER HAPPENED...

五番
ぷら
そば
五番

プル プル プル
OH DEAR...

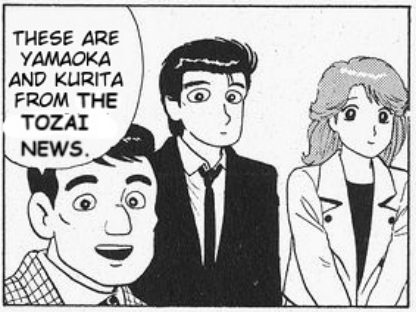
5

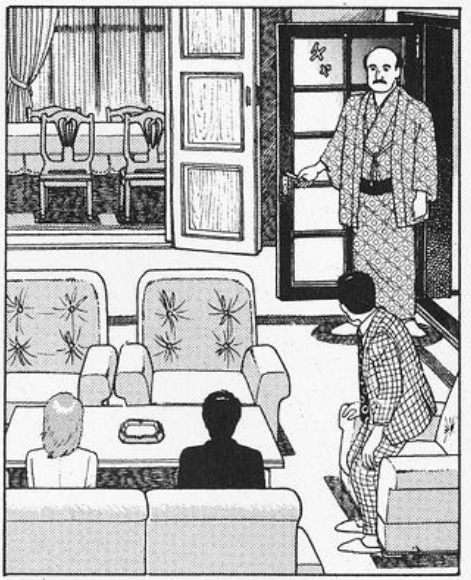
GIVE ME BACK MY NINE HUNDRED FIFTY YEN!
DAMN IT! HOW DARE YOU PREY ON A POOR GUY LIKE ME?!

一ッ橋出版社
三省堂
一
誠
堂
反省堂書店
三光堂書店
青天書店
村井書
洋書
山中書店
洋
HEY THERE, GOOD TO SEE YOU!
HEY THERE!
チャ
I WANT TO INTRODUCE YOU TO THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF HERE.
HE'S A FASCINATING GUY AND MY MENTOR...
6
HEY! SHUT UP!
I'LL HAVE TO CHECK WITH THE BOSS ABOUT THAT.
HEY, HOW'S IT GOING? IS YAMAOKA PULLING HIS WEIGHT?
THIS IS MY COLLEAGUE, KURITA.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, HOW ABOUT THIS?
チャ
GIVE ME BACK MY NINE HUNDRED FIFTY YEN!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
AH! YOU ALL!
KAWASUGI-SAN?!
7
HEY, HEY, WHAT'S GOING ON...?
HEY, YOU GUYS...
HE'S QUITE THE TALENTED WRITER, ISN'T HE? I BET THERE AREN'T MANY REPORTERS LIKE HIM AT TŌZAI NEWSPAPER.
WHAT? YOU KNOW KAWASUGI-KUN?

ISN'T WORKING A SIDE JOB OUTSIDE THE COMPANY A BIT RISKY?
書店
書店
OF ALL PEOPLE, I HAD TO GET CAUGHT BY YOU GUYS...
IT'S A TOUGH SPOT WHEN YOU CAN'T GET AWAY WITH ANYTHING...
I JUST WANTED SOME EXTRA CASH.
I'LL ADMIT I'M BREAKING COMPANY RULES.
AND ON TOP OF THAT, FOR ANOTHER MAGAZINE'S JOURNALISTS...
BUT IN RETURN, CAN YOU KEEP QUIET ABOUT THE SIDE JOB?
ALRIGHT, I'LL LET YOU IN ON THIS SECRET.
8
REALLY...?
TO GO AS FAR AS MAKING OTHERS PAY FOR LUNCH JUST TO SAVE UP... THAT'S DESPERATE.
WHY DO YOU NEED SO MUCH MONEY ANYWAY?
.....


THESE ARE YAMAOKA AND KURITA FROM THE TOZAI NEWS.



AH, WELCOME!

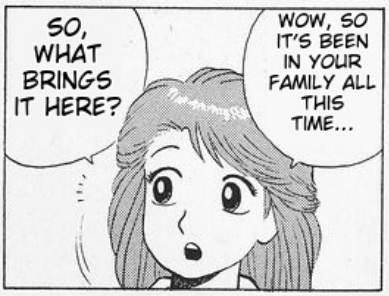
9

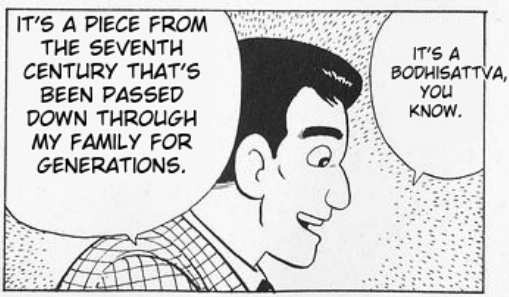
YES, PLEASE.
I HEAR YOU WANT TO SHOW THESE TWO SOMETHING SPECIAL, HUH?

MR. OKURA IS ONE OF JAPAN'S FOREMOST COLLECTORS OF FINE ART!

AHHH, WHAT A REMARKABLY STORIED STATUE OF A BUDDHA!

10


SO, WHAT BRINGS IT HERE?
WOW, SO IT'S BEEN IN YOUR FAMILY ALL THIS TIME...

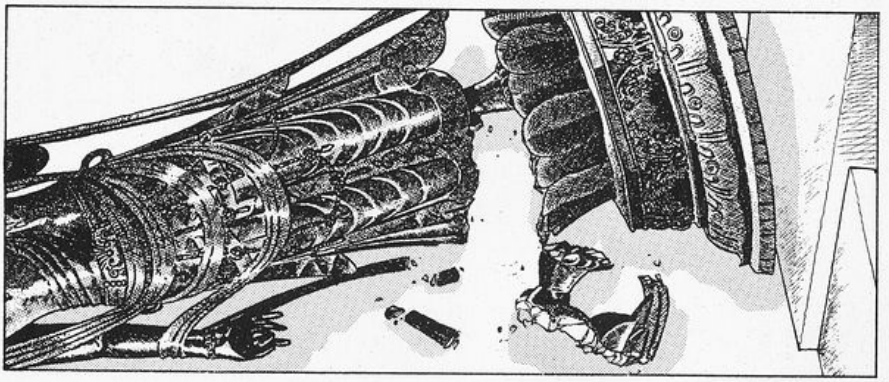

IT'S A PIECE FROM THE SEVENTH CENTURY THAT'S BEEN PASSED DOWN THROUGH MY FAMILY FOR GENERATIONS.
IT'S A BODHISATTVA, YOU KNOW.

LAST YEAR, I LENT IT FOR AN EXHIBITION AT A DEPARTMENT STORE, AND THAT'S WHEN KAWASUGI-SAN CAME TO VISIT ME.
WELL, FATE SMILED UPON ME, AND SOMEHOW THIS BUDDHA FOUND ITS WAY INTO MY HANDS,
MY FATHER REGRETTED THAT DECISION UNTIL THE VERY END...
DURING THE CHAOS AFTER THE WAR, MY FATHER HAD TO SELL IT OUT OF SHEER DESPERATION.
I WAS UTTERLY ASTONISHED WHEN IT FINALLY APPEARED AFTER BEING MISSING FOR 40 YEARS...
11
SO, WHEN I STUMBLED UPON THIS STATUE AT THE DEPARTMENT STORE, I THOUGHT IT WAS MY FATHER'S GUIDING HAND AT WORK..
WHEN MY FATHER WAS ON HIS DEATHBED, HE MADE ME PROMISE TO FIND THIS STATUE.
BUT WE HAD A PHOTOGRAPH OF IT DISPLAYED AT HOME, AND MY FATHER PRAYED TO IT EVERY SINGLE DAY.
OF COURSE, IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I HAD SEEN THE ACTUAL STATUE,
I HAD BEEN SAYING FOR AGES THAT I WANTED TO BRING THIS BUDDHA BACK LIKE A STUBBORN OBSESSION...
SO YOU ASKED OKURA-SAN TO HELP YOU ACQUIRE IT?

*TL NOTE: I BELIEVE WHAT THE BOTTOM LEFT PANEL SHOULD ACTUALLY READ IN THAT LITTLE BUBBLE SHOULD BE, "DON'T DROP IT" OR SOMETHING SIMILAR. HOWEVER, MY ATTEMPT TO FIX THAT MANUALLY REALLY DID NOT LOOK GOOD AT ALL. MY APOLOGIES.

WAIT A MINUTE...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? THIS IS STILL MINE!!
I'M GENEROUSLY GIVING IT UP, SO IF YOU KEEP TALKING NONSENSE, I MIGHT JUST TAKE IT BACK!
HEY! PLEASE STOP!!
WHOA! WHOA!
HEY! YOU IDIOT, LET GO!
ゲギ
わあああ

WHOA! THE BUDDHA STATUE!
OH NO, OH NO, OH NO...!
AHH!
YIKES! AH... MY LEG!
KAWASUGI-SAN, OKURA-SAN, ARE YOU OKAY?!



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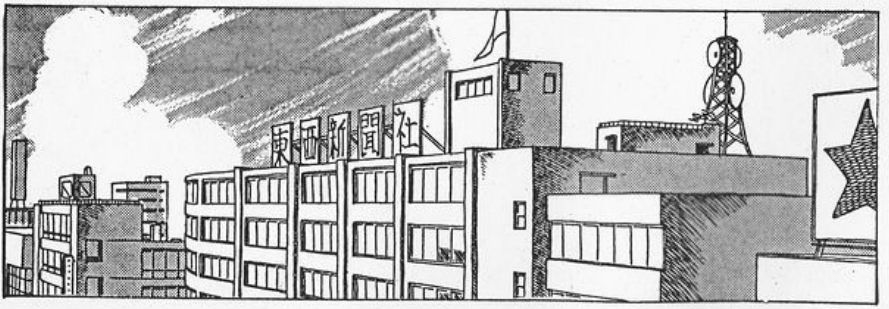
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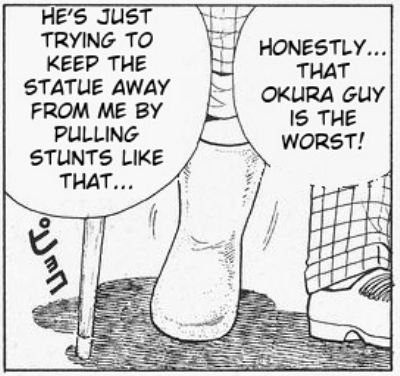
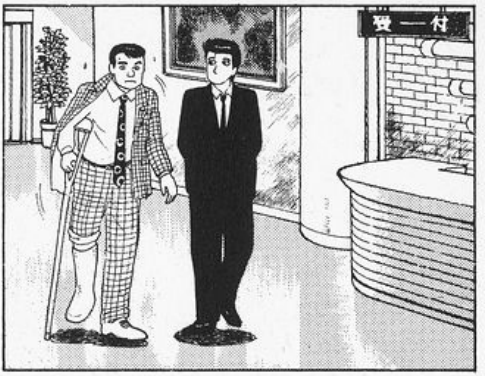
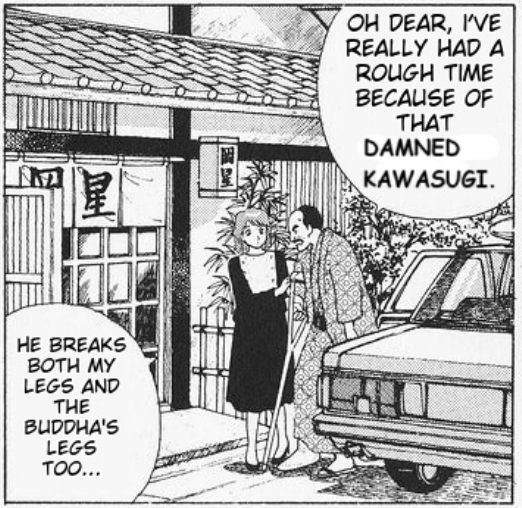
DELICIOUSNESS AWAITS!







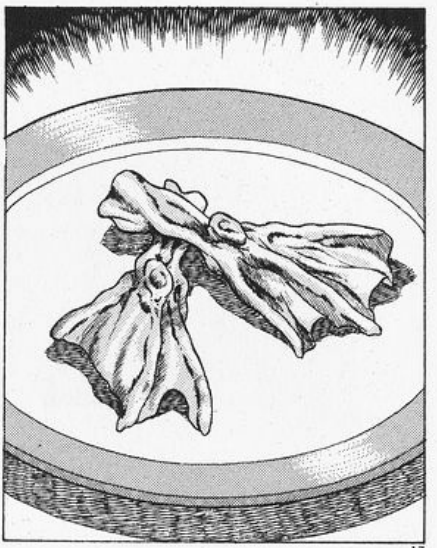
15

I'M SO SORRY. IT FEELS LIKE I TRICKED YOU...
BUT WE THINK IT'S RIDICULOUS FOR THE TWO OF YOU TO HATE EACH OTHER.
OH!
UGH!
THE ONLY REASON I DROPPED IT IS BECAUSE YOU GRABBED HOLD OF ME!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!
IT'S YOUR FAULT THE STATUE'S BROKEN! WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST GIVE IT TO ME?!
16
HMPH!
EASY NOW.
NOW, PLEASE ENJOY YOUR MEAL.

WHAT IN THE WORLD IS THIS...?
HMM?

TODAY'S DISH WAS ALL UNDER MR. YAMAOKA'S GUIDANCE...

IT'S DUCK FEET.



IT LOOKS SO GOOD!
DUCK FEET?!

17

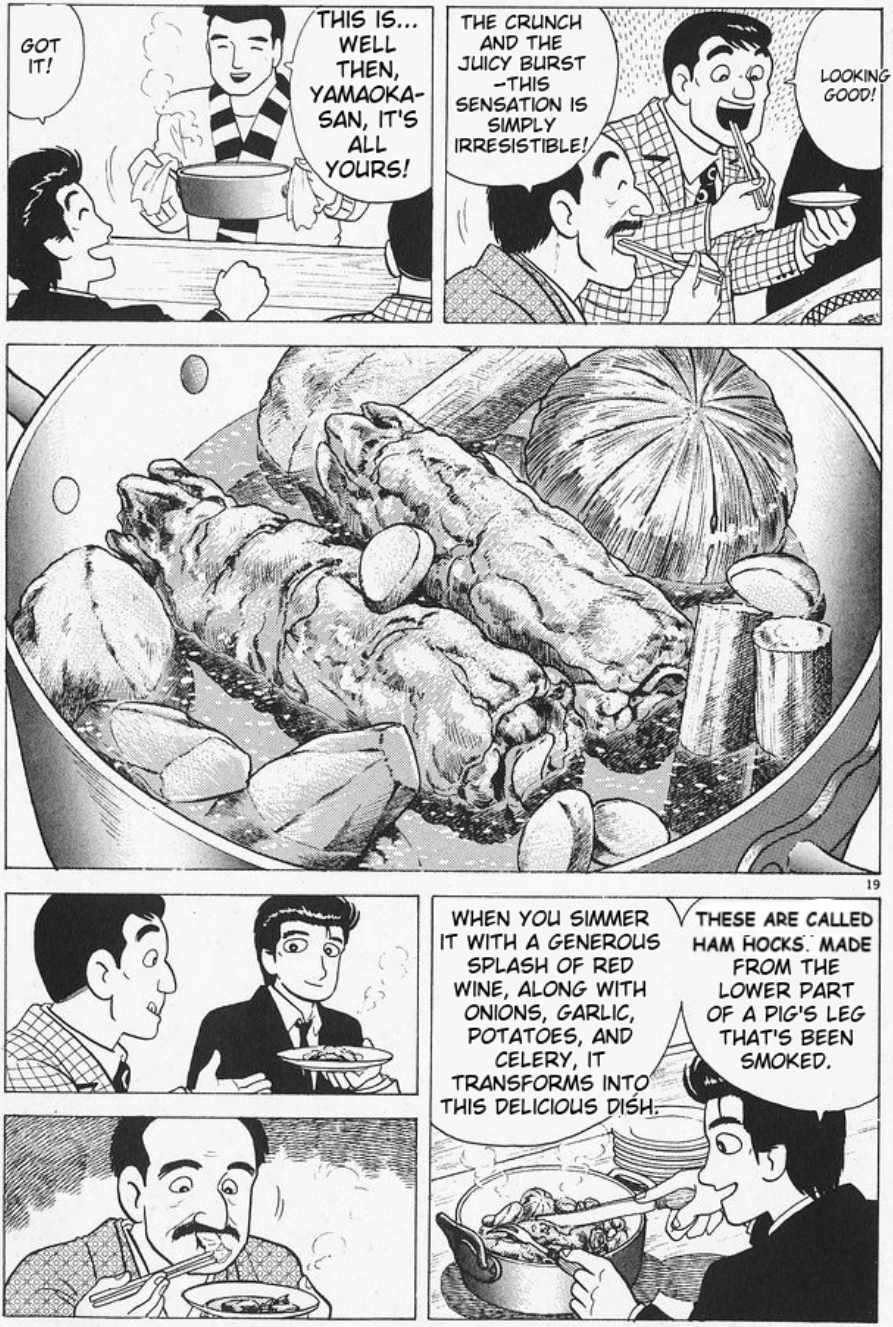
ん～...

クニュ
クニュ

I'VE SEASONED IT WITH FENNEL AND SIMMERED IT IN SOY SAUCE AND SHAOXING WINE.
I'VE REMOVED THE BONES FROM THE DUCK FEET,
AND THEN CHILLED IT.
Yuan
SOY SAUCE

WOW! ARE DUCK FEET REALLY THIS DELICIOUS?!
THIS IS SIMPLY IRRESISTIBLE!
OH! THE LUSCIOUS, GELATINOUS TEXTURE!
I CAN TELL, THESE ARE CHICKEN FEET!
SIMILAR YET DISTINCT, THIS TIME IT'S CHICKEN FEET SERVED IN A DELICIOUS SOUP!
THE FLAVOR OF THE CHICKEN FEET HARMONIZES BEAUTIFULLY WITH THE SCALLIONS AND GINGER IN THE BROTH!
18
PLEASE ENJOY IT DIPPED IN MISO.
I'VE BOILED THE PIG'S TROTTERS AND SLICED THE SKIN AND MEAT INTO DELICATE SLIVERS.
THE MISO IS DISSOLVED IN SAKE, INFUSED WITH A SPRINKLE OF CHILI POWDER.

COOKING MASTER BOY 19!



THE SOUP IS INCREDIBLE TOO! IT'S A GLORIOUS CHAOS OF MEATY GOODNESS AND VEGETABLE DELIGHT!
AH, BUT THE FLAVOR OF SMOKED PIG'S TROTTERS IS SIMPLY DIVINE!
OH! WHAT A BOLD AND RICH FLAVOR!
...NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, ALL THE INGREDIENTS FOR TODAY'S DISH ARE...
IT'S THE TROTTERS!
IN CHINA, WHEN THE LIVER IS IN BAD SHAPE, THEY SAY TO EAT THE LIVER OF COWS OR HORSES. WHEN THE KIDNEYS AREN'T DOING WELL, IT'S ALL ABOUT THE KIDNEYS,
THEY SAY THIS IS THE WAY TO GO WHEN IT COMES TO YOUR LEGS.
20
HEHEHE...
HA HA HA...

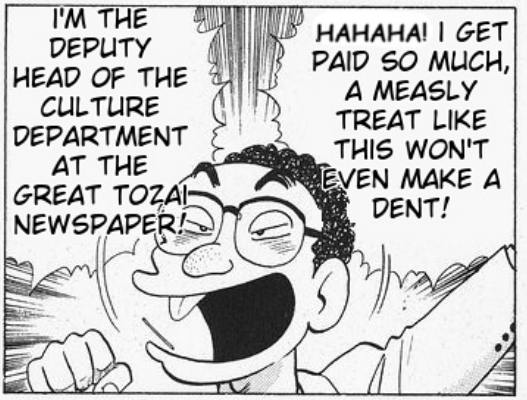
HA HA HA... OH, I MUST SAY, THIS IS STARTING TO FEEL A BIT RIDICULOUS.
KAWASUGI-KUN, I DON'T NEED MONEY ANYMORE; JUST TAKE THAT BUDDHA OFF MY HANDS.
AH HA HA... YOU MUST BE JOKING, RIGHT?
I'M DEAD SERIOUS.
AS AN ART COLLECTOR, A BROKEN FOOT ON A STATUE IS A MAJOR CATASTROPHE, BUT TO YOU, THE BUDDHA IS THE BUDDHA; IT'S JUST A TRIFLE, RIGHT?
THE BUDDHA BROKE HIS FOOT FOR ME, WHICH IS WHY I CAME OUT WITH JUST A SCRATCH...
THERE'S NO SUCH GRATEFUL BUDDHA AS THIS ONE.
21

HE WAS JUST HERE A MOMENT AGO.
HUH... HE'S NOT AROUND.
YO, YAMAOKA, LET'S GRAB SOME LUNCH!
東西新聞社
WAIT, MY WALLET'S MISSING...
来々亭
I SHOULDN'T EVEN NEED TO ASK YOU TO COVER ME ANYMORE.
OH, RIGHT, NO MORE HIDING NOW.
22
HEY YAMAOKA, CAN YOU COVER ME THIS TIME?

第7話
大切なミント

YEAH, SORRY YOU HAD TO SPEND SO MUCH, TOMII.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR THE MEAL.

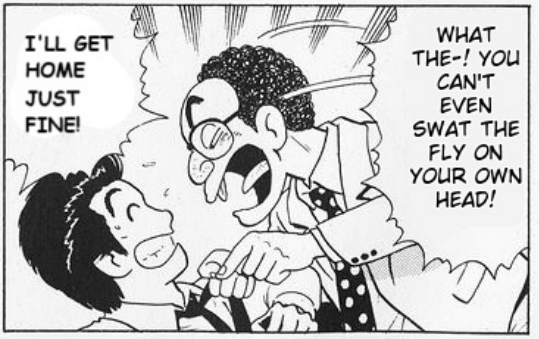
IS HE GOING TO BE ABLE TO GET HOME?
WELL, LOOK AT HOW HAPPY HE IS.

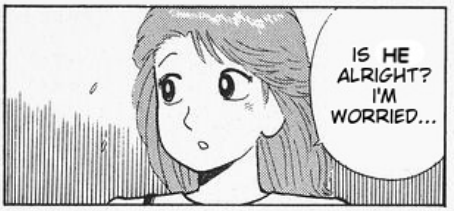

I'M THE DEPUTY HEAD OF THE CULTURE DEPARTMENT AT THE GREAT TOZAI NEWSPAPER!
HAHAHA! I GET PAID SO MUCH, A MEASLY TREAT LIKE THIS WON'T EVEN MAKE A DENT!

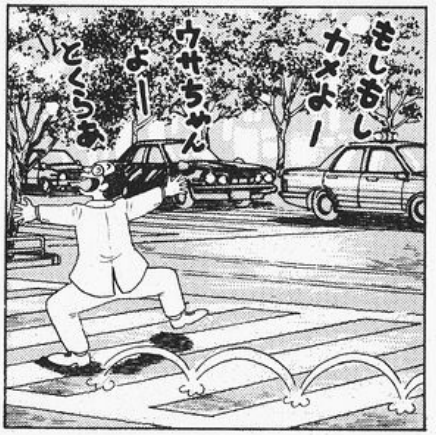
2

WELL THEN, I'M HEADING HOME!
わはは

LET'S CATCH A TAXI.
I'LL SEE YOU PART OF THE WAY.


I'LL GET HOME JUST FINE!
WHAT THE-! YOU CAN'T EVEN SWAT THE FLY ON YOUR OWN HEAD!

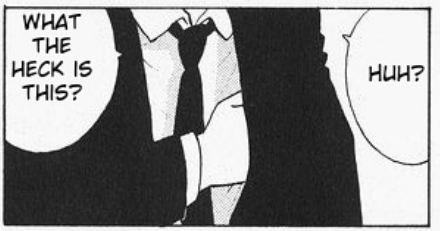

IS HE ALRIGHT? I'M WORRIED...


しおむし カメよー
ウサちゃん よー
とくらあ

THIS KIND OF THING ISN'T UNUSUAL FOR HIM.
IT'S FINE, HE'S A SEASONED DRINKER!

LET'S GO, LET'S GO!
YEAH, HE'LL PROBABLY BE FINE TOMORROW.

うぃっち!
うばさあん
チャーシューが
大好きー
とね

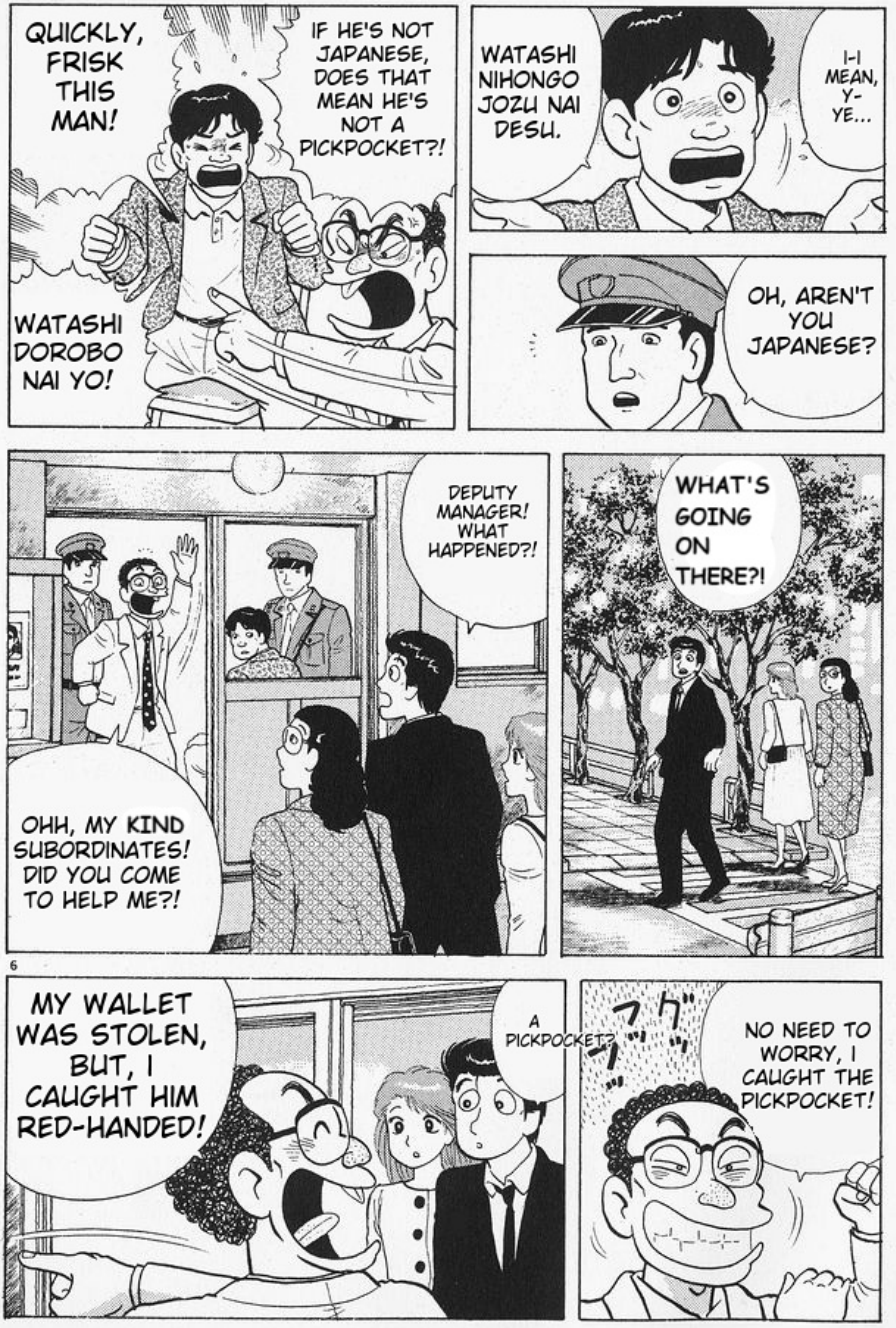

WHAT THE HECK IS THIS?
HUH?

3

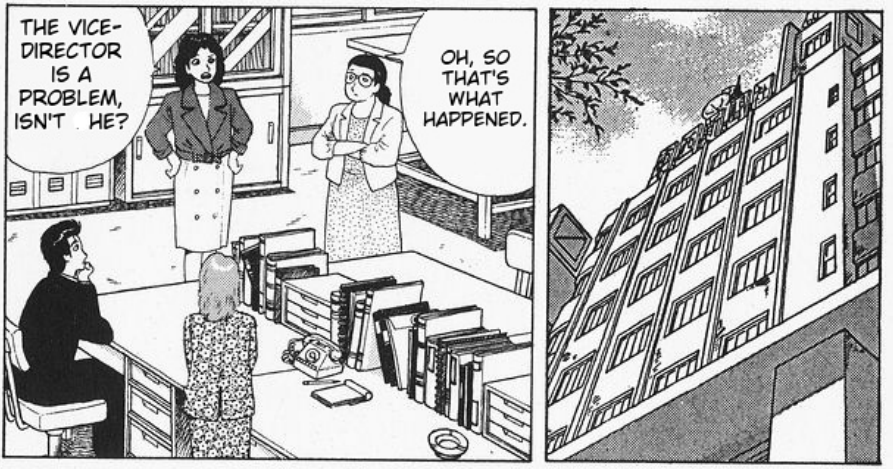
地下鉄
SUBWAY

ドーン
OUCH!
へろへろ
へったっ
へろへろ
へーっ
ペコリ
OW! WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING!
YOU STUPID ASS! IF I'D BEEN AN EGG, I WOULD BE BROKEN OPEN ON THE SIDEWALK NOW!!!
4
HONESTLY!
ブツブツ

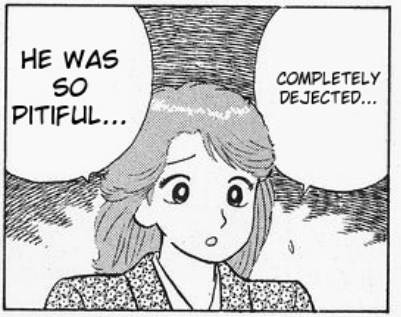
WAIT, THIEF!
ドタドタドタ!!
YOU BASTARD, YOU ACTUALLY DID IT!
AH! MY WALLET'S GONE!
5
WHAT, HE TOOK YOUR WALLET?
ブル ブル ブル
OFFICER! I'VE CAUGHT A PICKPOCKET!
YOU THINK YOU CAN GET AWAY WITH THIS BY STAYING SILENT, HUH?
SEE? ISN'T HE A RUDE ONE!
WHAT


QUICKLY, FRISK THIS MAN!
IF HE'S NOT JAPANESE, DOES THAT MEAN HE'S NOT A PICKPOCKET?!
WATASHI DOROBO NAI YO!
WATASHI NIHONGO JOZU NAI DESU.
I-I MEAN, Y-YE...
OH, AREN'T YOU JAPANESE?
DEPUTY MANAGER! WHAT HAPPENED?!
OHH, MY KIND SUBORDINATES! DID YOU COME TO HELP ME?!
WHAT'S GOING ON THERE?!
6
MY WALLET WAS STOLEN, BUT, I CAUGHT HIM RED-HANDED!
A PICKPOCKET?
フフ
NO NEED TO WORRY, I CAUGHT THE PICKPOCKET!
ハハハ

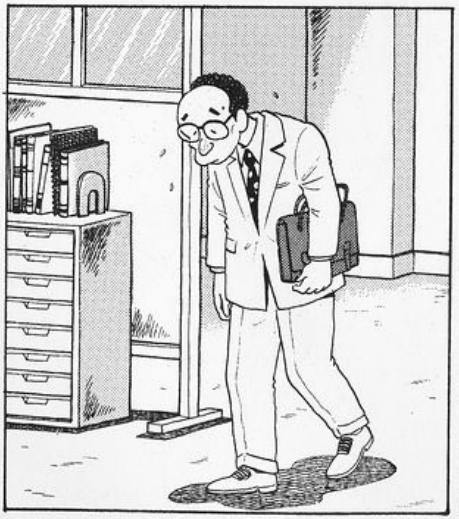
YOU HAD IT AFTER ALL... HUH?
THAT'S RIGHT, WAHAHAHAHAHA! LOOK!
IS THIS THE WALLET?
AFTER PAYING THE BILL, I ACCIDENTALLY PUT YOUR WALLET IN MY JACKET...
THAT STORE WAS HOT INSIDE, SO BOTH THE VICE PRESIDENT AND I HUNG OUR JACKETS ON THE BACK OF THE CHAIRS, RIGHT?
ANGA...
NGA...
THIS MAN SEEMS QUITE DRUNK.
THIS IS A PROBLEM.
7
I DIDN'T STEAL IT!
I TOLD YOU!


THE VICE-DIRECTOR IS A PROBLEM, ISN'T HE?
OH, SO THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED.

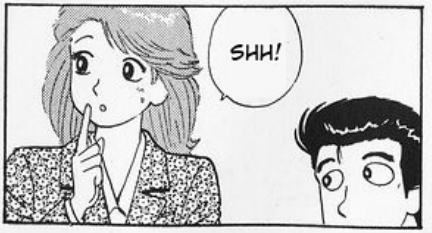
HE CALLED HIM A PICKPOCKET AND A THIEF AND DRAGGED HIM TO THE POLICE BOX.
BUT THE PERSON ON THE OTHER SIDE WOULD GET ANGRY TOO!


HE WAS SO PITIFUL...
COMPLETELY DEJECTED...

8

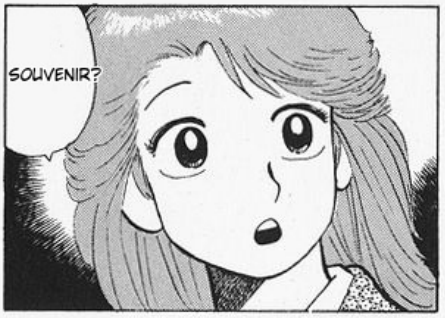


HE WAS VIETNAMESE.
THAT WOULD BE AN INTERNATIONAL INCIDENT.


SHH!

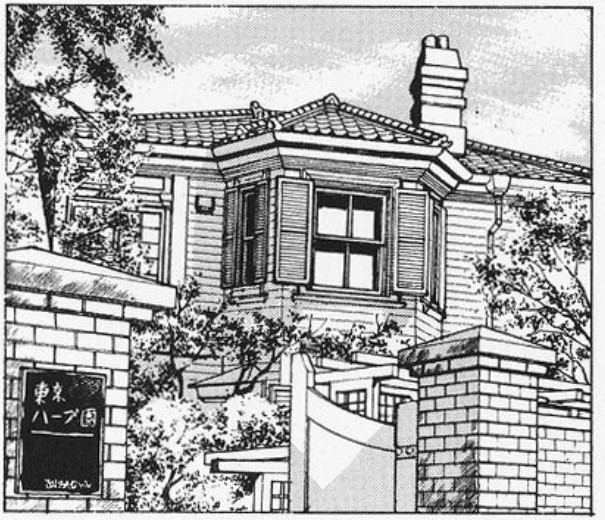
PERHAPS SOME MEDICINE...
I'M NOT HUNGOVER OR ANYTHING...
YOU COULDN'T GET UP BECAUSE OF A HANGOVER, RIGHT?
IT'S RARE FOR YOU TO BE LATE, ASSISTANT MANAGER.
キィ
I WENT TO PROPERLY APOLOGIZE FOR YESTERDAY, BUT HE HAD ALREADY LEFT.
YESTERDAY, I STOPPED BY NGUYEN-SAN'S HOUSE.
9
HIS WIFE EVEN TOLD HIM TO STOP LIVING IN JAPAN AND GO ABROAD...
HE IS APPARENTLY VERY ANGRY...
NGUYEN-SAN'S WIFE WAS JAPANESE, SO I WENT TO EXPLAIN THINGS TO HER,
OH NO!
WELL...

YAMAOKA--!
I WONDER IF THEY'LL FORGIVE ME...
I DECIDED TO ASK AGAIN TOMORROW MORNING, BUT,
IF IT WERE ME, I WOULDN'T FORGIVE YOU...
WELL NOW... AFTER WHAT HAPPENED.
HMM... VIETNAMESE FOOD...
MR. NGUYEN IS A COOK AT A VIETNAMESE RESTAURANT!
10
YES.
TOMII SAID HE'S GOING TO NGUYEN'S HOUSE TOMORROW.


SOUVENIR?

ALRIGHT, I'LL LET YOU TAKE A SOUVENIR.

SAGE

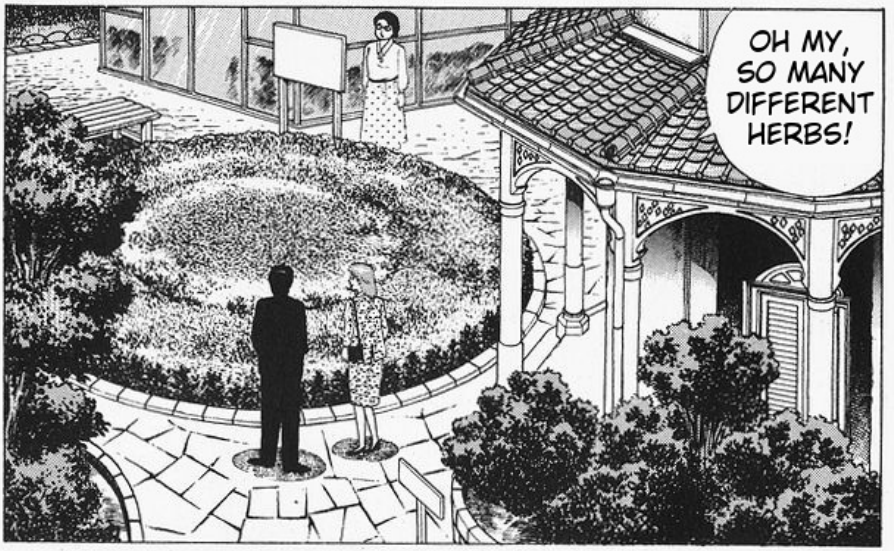

東京ハーブ園

11

DILL

OREGANO

THYME


OH MY, SO MANY DIFFERENT HERBS!

WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO TAKE TODAY?
OH MY, IT'S SCARY TO BE PRAISED BY YAMAOKA-SAN.

OSADA-SAN IS THE BEST IN JAPAN WHEN IT COMES TO HERB RESEARCH.

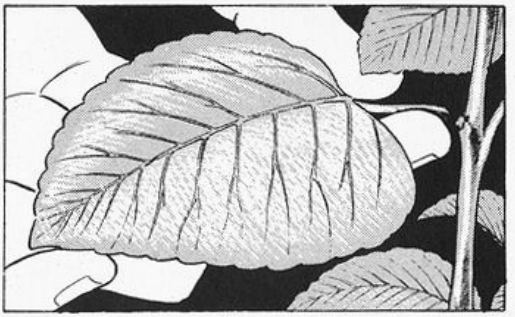
12

MINT?

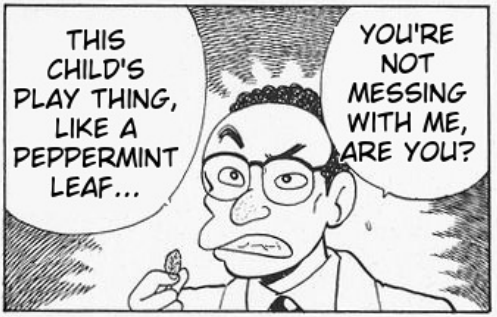
THERE'S A POTTED PLANT OVER THERE, SO I'LL GIVE YOU ONE.
MINT IS NO PROBLEM AT ALL.
WOW, THANK YOU SO MUCH!!

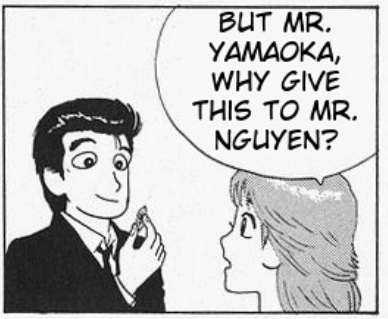
HEHEHEH, ACTUALLY, JUST A LITTLE MINT...

OISHINBO 19



13


THIS CHILD'S PLAY THING, LIKE A PEPPERMINT LEAF...
YOU'RE NOT MESSING WITH ME, ARE YOU?

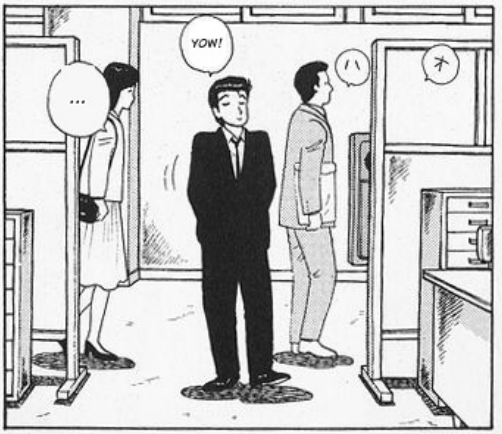

BUT MR. YAMAOKA, WHY GIVE THIS TO MR. NGUYEN?

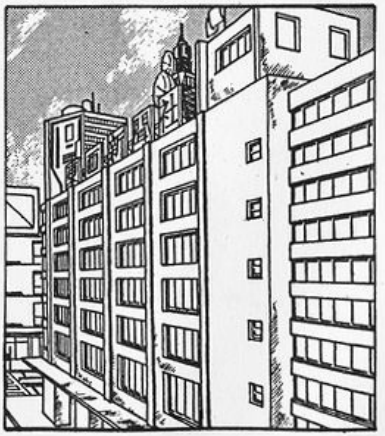
14

NGUYEN EVEN MORE UPSET, I'LL TURN YOUR HEAD INTO A POTTED PLANT!
IF YOU END UP MAKING MR.
OH, COME ON! I'M TRYING TO HELP YOU HERE!

IF YOU DON'T WANT IT, FINE, GIVE IT BACK!

SHUT UP!

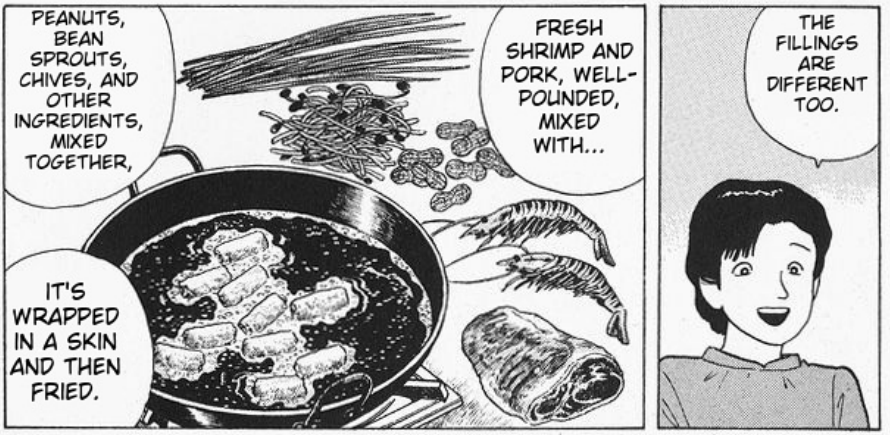

YOW!
...

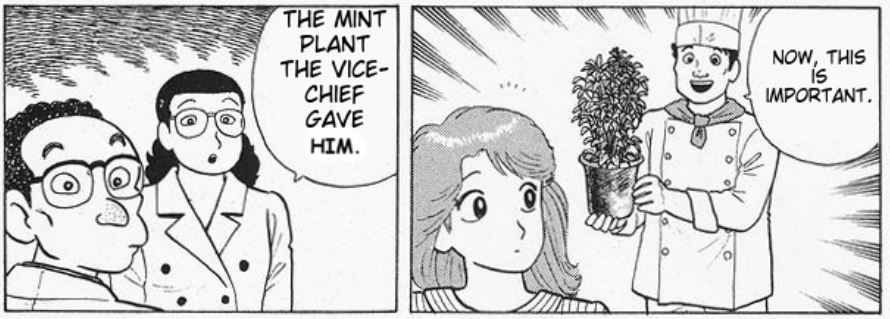


THEY LOVED THE PEPPERMINT POTTED PLANT!!!!
HIEEE! W-WHAT'S GOING ON?!
HEY, YAMAOKA!!!!
VIETNAMESE FOOD? THAT'S A FIRST FOR ME!
AND ON TOP OF THAT, HE INVITED US OVER FOR A MEAL!
HA, I KNEW IT!
HE EVEN FORGAVE THE DEPUTY CHIEF, CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?
DEPUTY CHIEF, YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING ME-!
NAH, I DON'T MIX BUSINESS WITH PLEASURE.
アト
YAMAOKA! I OWE YOU BIG TIME!
15
HEH, THIS IS GONNA SNAG ME A SWEET BONUS FOR SURE.

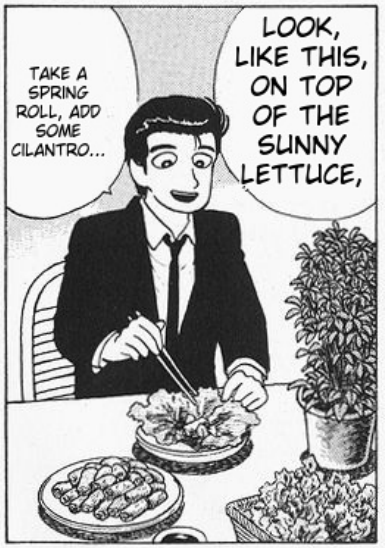
PLEASE, HELP YOURSELF.
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING. HERE'S MY MASTER'S SPECIALTY, VIETNAMESE-STYLE SPRING ROLLS.
ベトナムレストラン メコン
VIETNAMESE RESTAURANT
レストラン コン

THEY'RE SMALLER THAN CHINESE SPRING ROLLS, AREN'T THEY?
WOW, THEY LOOK DELICIOUS.


PEANUTS, BEAN SPROUTS, CHIVES, AND OTHER INGREDIENTS, MIXED TOGETHER,
FRESH SHRIMP AND PORK, WELL-POUNDED, MIXED WITH...
IT'S WRAPPED IN A SKIN AND THEN FRIED.
THE FILLINGS ARE DIFFERENT TOO.


THE MINT PLANT THE VICE-CHIEF GAVE HIM.
NOW, THIS IS IMPORTANT.

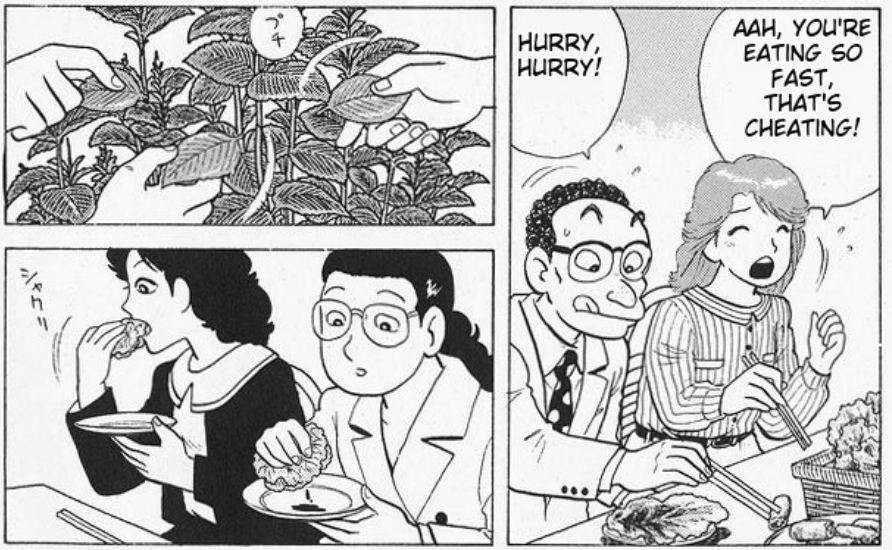
MINT IS DELICIOUS.
MINT IS IMPORTANT IN VIETNAM.

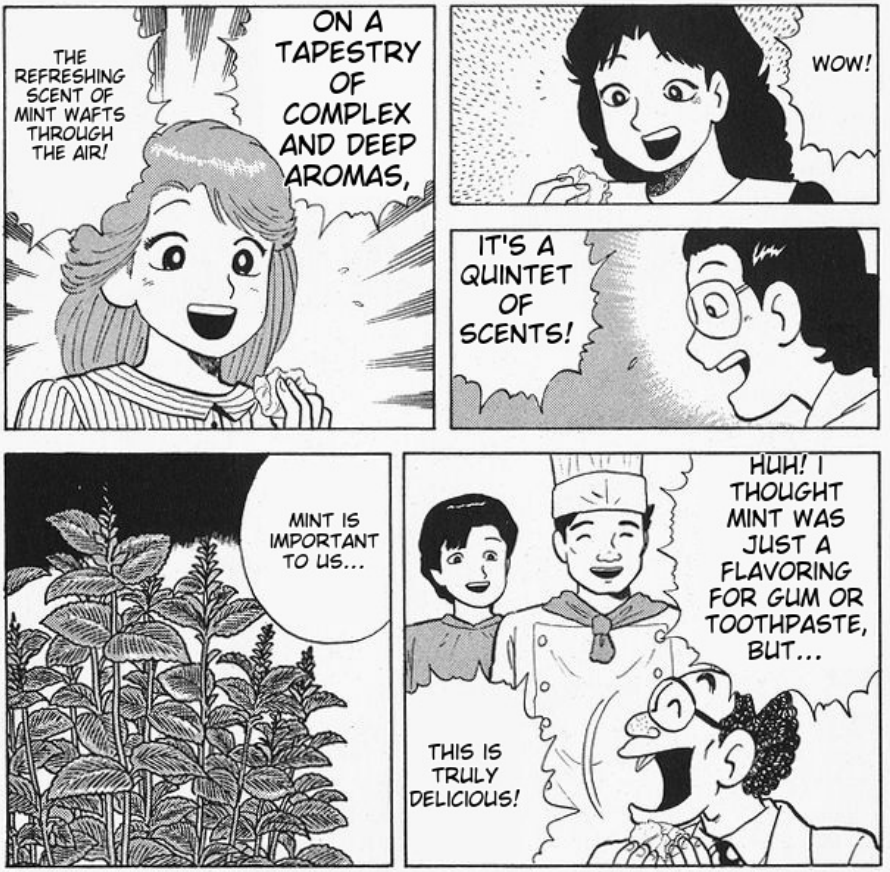

TAKE A SPRING ROLL, ADD SOME CILANTRO...
LOOK, LIKE THIS, ON TOP OF THE SUNNY LETTUCE,

MINT IS AN ESSENTIAL HERB IN VIETNAMESE CUISINE...

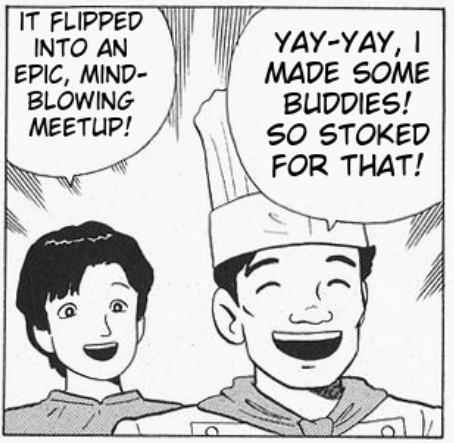
WRAP IT UP.
AND THEN THE MINT LEAVES...
THAT FISH SAUCE IS CALLED NUOC MAM.
IF YOU SALT SMALL FISH AND FERMENT THEM IN A BARREL, YOU GET SOMETHING LIKE SOY SAUCE.
DIP THIS IN NUOC MAM.
RIGHT.
AH, YAMOKA-SAN USED IT BEFORE IN HONG KONG!
18
OH! IT'S SO COMPLEX!
WE CREATE OUR OWN UNIQUE FLAVOR.
BY ADDING LIME JUICE, VINEGAR, SUGAR, GARLIC, AND CHILI PEPPERS TO NUOC MAM,

LET'S EAT.
SO GOOD!
19


HURRY, HURRY!
AAH, YOU'RE EATING SO FAST, THAT'S CHEATING!


THE REFRESHING SCENT OF MINT WAFTS THROUGH THE AIR!
ON A TAPESTRY OF COMPLEX AND DEEP AROMAS,
WOW!
IT'S A QUINTET OF SCENTS!
MINT IS IMPORTANT TO US...
HUH! I THOUGHT MINT WAS JUST A FLAVORING FOR GUM OR TOOTHPASTE, BUT...
THIS IS TRULY DELICIOUS!
20
NOT ONLY HAVE YOU FORGIVEN ME FOR MY RUDENESS, BUT YOU'VE ALSO PREPARED SUCH A FEAST...
MR. NGUYEN...
TOMII-SAN UNDERSTOOD OUR FEELINGS.
I AM HAPPY!

THAT MINT REALLY ZINGED UP MY MOUTH, HUH!
YEAH, IT KICKED OFF AS A TOTAL TRAINWRECK, BUT...

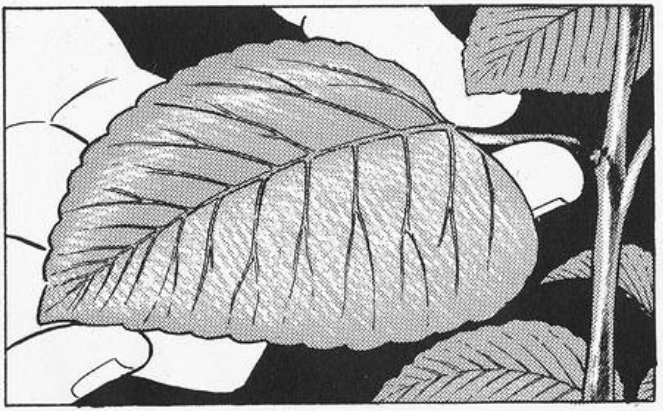

IT FLIPPED INTO AN EPIC, MIND-BLOWING MEETUP!
YAY-YAY, I MADE SOME BUDDIES! SO STOKED FOR THAT!

HA HA HA HA HA!
は

YES, IT REALLY WAS!
WHOA, THAT WAS DELISH- PURE FREAKING AWESOME!

21

OISHINBO, VOLUME 19 -
THE END -



美味しんぼ19 —食は三代？—

ビッグ コミックス

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著者 雁屋 哲
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